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THE TIMES

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Lamont olive branch for TUC

Fears over jobs put union bill back on shelf

By Philip Bassett, Ross Tremain and Nicholas Wood

A BILL to impose severe curbs on trade unions has been postponed by ministers in a fresh attempt to shore up support in the face of overwhelming public concern about the economy and unemployment.

The Chancellor has also taken the unusual step of inviting TUC leaders to a private meeting next week for talks on their ideas for economic recovery, and Michael Heseltine is to see a TUC delegation to discuss the state of industry and the pit closures.

The moves are likely to irritate Thatcherite MPs worried that John Major is embarking on more U-turns, but other Tories were relieved last

■ Norman Lamont has invited TUC chiefs for talks on the economy, and new laws to curb the unions are being delayed. But there is still little sign of the beer and sandwiches cosiness of the past

night that ministers were seeking to avoid further confrontation — especially as they face an imminent storm over fierce public spending cuts.

By early last night more than 100 MPs had signed a Commons motion applauding Mr Major's new strategy for ending the recession and Norman Lamont will endorse his policy of emphasising growth in his key Mansion House speech tonight, although he will reiterate his determination to contain inflation.

Ministers had intended to bring in the latest round of legislation restricting trade

insensitive in view of our little local difficulty over pit closures.

Formally, ministers will offer the excuse that the EC's 11th-hour decision last week on new standards of maternity time and payments is proving difficult to draft quickly into UK law, and will therefore hold up the employment bill. Gillian Shephard, the employment secretary, insisted yesterday that the bill would be introduced in this parliamentary session, but would not say exactly when. She said it was rubbish to suggest that it was being postponed because of the government's present problems.

Frank Dobson, Labour's employment spokesman, welcomed the postponement of the bill, and hoped it would be postponed further into the "far blue yonder". Ministers had, he said, clearly accepted that it was not the right time to undermine employees' rights. "They have sheared off. They know what they preposterous and would make them even more unpopular."

Meanwhile, Mr Lamont has invited TUC leaders to a meeting next Tuesday when Norman Willis and Rodney Bickerstaffe will present their strategy for economic recovery. Heavily criticised by the invitation and by Mr Heseltine's agreement to meet a delegation to talk about the pit closures, Mr Willis has also written to Mr Major seeking an early interview to discuss the economic situation.

The meeting with Mr Lamont signals a thaw in the hostility which the government has ranged against workers' leaders for more than 13 years. It will be the first formal meeting outside the framework of their annual pre-budget meeting and for the past three years even those were conducted at the National Economic Development Office (NEDO), which has been disbanded.

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unions once the Commons returned, but they now believe that to introduce the bill against the background of public anger over unemployment and the pit closures would worsen the government's problems, leaving it open to charges of promoting irrelevant law while business and constituency pressures to take action over the economy are rising.

John Watts, chairman of the Treasury select committee, said that it was sensible "to avoid stirring the pot further," adding: "We had a very thick legislative timetable in the summer, but there is enough around to keep us occupied now. Legislation imposing new restrictions on trade unions might seem slightly



From the family album: Bill Clinton, the US presidential favourite, aged 3 in 1950, just one of a series of photographs

newly released by his mother, Virginia Kelley, from the attic of her Arkansas home. More photographs, page 16

'The honourable course of action is to resign'



John Wilby in his ambulance computer control room at Waterloo: "I am deeply conscious of the lack of public confidence"

Ambulance chief quits over 999 scandal

By Michael Horsnell

THE head of London's crisis-hit ambulance service resigned yesterday amid allegations that delays in answering 999 calls after the failure of a new £1.5 million computerised call-out system may have contributed to up to 20 deaths this week.

An immediate independent enquiry into what went wrong with the system, which is designed to speed the way emergency calls are logged, given priority and answered, was ordered by the service. It accepted that its performance was a "matter of serious public concern", and apologised.

John Wilby, 53, who has been chief executive of the London Ambulance

Service since August 1990, said last night: "I am deeply conscious of the lack of public confidence which has been expressed following service failures over the past few months. Having regard to those circumstances, I have decided that the honourable course of action is to offer my resignation which the regional health authority has accepted."

Mr Wilby, who, as former head of the Scottish ambulance service, oversaw the ambulance response to the Lockerbie disaster, added: "The board has kindly acknowledged the considerable progress which has been made over the past two years in modernising the service."

He was responsible for the introduction of the "computer-aided dis-

patch" system that was brought in last January to control ambulance operations. The system was designed to allocate 999 calls more efficiently, but for 36 hours on Monday and Tuesday the service was plunged into chaos when the computer system was put into full operation at the central control in Waterloo. Officers had to revert to manual control.

Chris Humphreys, a Nupe regional officer, said that ambulance staff, many in tears, told him they feared the delays of two to three hours or even longer may have resulted in ten to 20 deaths. Welcoming the independent review of the service, Mr Humphreys said: "The system does not work. We need a fresh pair of eyes and someone with different experi-

ence to look at the problem. This would lift the morale of the service, which is at an all-time low." According to recent government figures, he added, the London service responded to only 11 per cent of emergency calls within the required minimum time limit of 17 minutes.

The resignation announcement was made in the Commons by Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary. She said: "My overriding concern is to ensure proper management is in place so that the problems can be dealt with speedily and effectively."

Martin Gorham, deputy chief executive of South West Thames regional health authority, will take over from Mr Wilby as acting chief executive of the service.

Labour steps up drive to defeat Major

By Philip Webster and Arthur Leathley

LABOUR decided last night to turn next week's Commons debate on Maastricht into a full-scale attack on the prime minister's style and conduct of government, forcing the Tory whips to redouble their efforts to rally support for John Major.

The efforts to pick off Conservative rebels gained pace and urgency after the shadow cabinet decided unanimously that Labour MPs would be whipped to oppose the government, irrespective of the type of motion the cabinet decides to table today.

Although there was clear evidence of some of the potential rebels switching back to support the government, the Labour move meant that as few as 30 Tory critics could defeat Mr Major next week. The prime minister yesterday voiced confidence that he would win the vote, as senior ministers welcomed as a significant step forward the Danish government's proposals for putting its ratification process back on track.

A number of potential rebels were being won over as senior ministers saw them individually or in groups to try to convince them that they must back Mr Major in what has clearly become a confidence vote next Wednesday.

Britain's industrial leaders called on Tory MPs to ratify the treaty. Sir Michael Angus, president of the CBI, told a private meeting of the Tory backbench European affairs committee last night that the treaty would protect employment in Britain while rejection would result in falling inward investment.

At the same time a counter-

attack was launched by loyalist backbenchers. In a letter to *The Times* today Sir Peter Emery, backed by more than 30 of his colleagues, accuses a small minority of MPs of trying to undermine the prime minister.

In the Commons, Douglas Hurd called on Tory MPs to back the treaty, which he described as a compromise that was the only possible framework for a successful Community in the next few years. Underlining the importance of the vote to the prime minister's position, he said the Commons would have to decide "whether it wants the prime minister to preside over the Edinburgh summit — preserving and extending the influence of this country on what happens in Europe — or

whether it doesn't". Labour cited that statement last night as proof of their claim that the debate would be all about the authority of the prime minister. In the Commons, Jack Cunningham, the shadow foreign secretary, asked Mr Hurd: "How do you expect us to support that?"

The Danish proposals for opt-outs on the single currency and defence parts of the treaty, and other concessions on immigration and law enforcement, were a mixed blessing for the government. They gave Tory MPs wanting to pull back from the brink of rebellion the chance to get off the

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Recession-proof tactics take M&S profit up 20%

By Matthew Bond

MARKS & Spencer, the Rolls-Royce of Britain's high street stores, is purring through the recession with profits up almost 20 per cent. The St Michael label returned profits of £257 million on higher sales of £2.24 billion with the winning combination of selling expensive food and not quite so expensive clothes.

Sir Richard Greenbury, the chairman, stressed yesterday that M & S's success was not at the expense of the customer. "Almost all our goods, 98.5 per cent, are at the same price or less than last year," he

said, adding that suppliers had joined with the company in making cost savings and other improvements in efficiency.

The losses in the battle against recession were 300 staff made redundant at M & S headquarters last year. Sir Richard said retirements and voluntary departures had cut head office numbers by a further 500. "The savings have been backstage. We have actually got more people on the sales floor." *Page 25*

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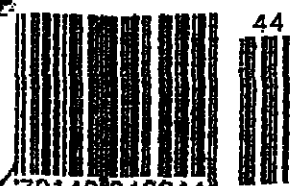


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Suede-tongued Hurd plays for time in muddy waters

MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Watching foreign office questions fielded yesterday by the suede-tongued Mr Hurd, you had to sympathise with the Opposition front bench. Every time they are poised to score, the government change the rules.

Parliamentary tugs-o'-war are no fun unless both sides agree what counts as cheating. Lately, the Tory team has taken to tripping and falling on their backs in the mud before the Labour team has so much as tugged at the rope. Then the government leap up and shout "we won't". Outraged, the Opposition shout back "oh no you didn't" to which the Tories chorus "oh yes we did". Madam Speaker screams "order!" and the press reports an even draw.

Such is the reward for shamelessness. The Tories dance off to their constituencies for the weekend chuckling that they have had a tolerably good week. The Labour party are left screaming with frustration and demanding of John Smith why he has failed yet again to "pin it on them". But pin what, on whom, and how? Rebut claim with counter-claim, muddy the water and shout a lot—and most voters will wander away shaking their heads and muttering "six of one and half a dozen of the other" or "they're all as bad as each other".

Thus it was, at foreign office questions, that the Tories escaped again. MPs seemed to remember John Major having undertaken not to debate Maastricht until two things had been sorted out: Denmark and subsidiarity. Yesterday, a curious deafness afflicted ministers whenever either was mentioned.

On Maastricht, Douglas Hogg, a foreign office minister, simply ducked Labour's George Robertson, who protested that it was still unclear what Danish demands would be agreed. "I haven't been involved," said Hogg.

He declined to direct us to someone who had. So it was left to the Christopher Gill (C. Ludlow) to try again.

Gill is a known Euro-rebel. From the front bench, two Tory whips (there is normally one), skulking together for mutual protection like beat-officers at midnight on Raiton Road, glared round at Gill, pencils at the ready, as he asked the foreign secretary how he defined "subsidiarity". With an expression of mild surprise, Hurd remarked that subsidiarity had been defined already. Hurd beamed around. Surely everybody knew about subsidiarity...

No. But the Liberals' Russell Johnston decided to let that ride, and return to Denmark. Hadn't the PM promised to delay the debate until "the Danish question has been resolved"?

Hurd shifted from benign to cryptic. The Danes had asked for time. "They have used the time," he added, mysteriously. The remark qualifies for inclusion in Mr Hurd's new book *Zen and the Art of Foreign Office Questions*.

Exasperated, his Labour shadow, Jack Cunningham, put it to him point blank before the Commons returned to Maastricht, he said, two things—Denmark and subsidiarity—were to have been settled. Had they been? As Cunningham spoke, a whip slid out carrying a big, thick railway timetable.

Mr Hurd paused. Perhaps I only imagined I heard from the whips office the faint cries of a backbencher as a heavy volume thudded into his skull. With a gentleness which was almost menacing, Mr Hurd remarked that debates ended in votes, and this one was seven days away.

Yes, but... Too late. Questions were over.



Keeping their distance: John Major and Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission, before the start of talks at Lancaster House, in London, yesterday

Labour aims to vote down government on Maastricht

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND NICHOLAS WOOD

LABOUR MPs will vote against the government in next week's Commons debate on Maastricht despite the publication of Denmark's plan to salvage the treaty.

The shadow cabinet decided in principle last night that Mr Major's decision to elevate the vote into an issue of confidence in his leadership and the turmoil of recent weeks has given Labour justifiable grounds for trying to vote down the government without compromising its credentials as a pro-European party.

The blurring of one of its two pretexts for changing its line on Europe brought allegations of opportunism against Labour last night. The party had said that the paving debate should not take place until the Danish position was known. Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, said John Smith, the Labour leader, was performing "intellectual distortions" in considering a vote that might damage and possibly kill Maastricht.

The disclosure of the Danish plan, seeking opt-outs for

Denmark on the single currency and defence, and safeguards on immigration and law enforcement, was cautiously welcomed by the government yesterday. Senior officials voiced optimism that under John Major's presidency at the Edinburgh summit a deal would be done, allowing the Danish government to put a revised plan to its people next year and to get the Maastricht ratification process back on track.

It has, however, given further ammunition to Mr Major's critics who immediately demanded that any concessions granted to Denmark should be extended to Britain.

Labour's decision to vote against the government is causing reservations among the party's enthusiastic pro-European wing, although the overwhelming majority of Labour MPs is looking forward to being able to vote in the same lobby on Europe.

Even the most ardent pro-Europeans said yesterday they saw little alternative to a decision to oppose the govern-

ment. Giles Radice, MP for Durham North, said: "They are going around saying this is an issue of confidence in the government and in John Major. And in these circumstances it is almost impossible for even somebody who is so enthusiastic a European as I am to vote with the government."

Margaret Beckett, Labour's deputy leader, said yesterday that next week's debate had nothing to do with the Maastricht treaty. She said Labour had always said that it not only had to be clear how the Danish dilemma might be resolved, but whether it would be resolved. It was obvious that that was not yet settled.

She said: "It is absolutely crystal clear that the reason for this debate has nothing whatsoever to do with the Maastricht Treaty, its contents or its timing. It is all to do with the prime minister trying to reassert his authority."

She added: "It is extremely likely that we will oppose it because the whole country knows we have no economic policy, no industrial policy, we have a government in tatters and we are being asked to say they are doing a wonderful job." She said Labour had consistently called for a delay on the Bill until it was absolutely clear how the Danish proposals would work.

"The people who are being opportunistic and twisting about are the government. It is the prime minister who, in his panic and his pique, decided to announce he was making it an issue of confidence. It is they who have changed the ground on which this debate is taking place."

After presentation to the Danish parliament tomorrow the formal proposals will be sent to Britain as the EC

presidency next week. The government intends to launch into negotiations with European Community partners with a view to reaching an agreement at Edinburgh. The aim is to enable the second Danish referendum to take place in the first half of next year.

British officials said that there would be hard negotiations on the issues of most concern to the Danes, although they were adamant that the treaty would not be renegotiated. A senior government official said: "We believe it should be possible to reach agreement at Edinburgh on the basis of this memorandum. That is what we aim to achieve."

The near unity in Labour ranks was underlined by remarks by Neil Kinnock, the former leader and the architect of Labour's pro-European shift. He said the party should do everything it could to defeat the government in the name of Britain's national interest and of a stronger Europe.

The government was elected on dishonesty and had shown record-breaking capacities for injustice and incompetence since then, he said. "When that government puts its head on the line, the Opposition's job for the sake of the country is to run over that head and that is what we shall do."

John Prescott, the shadow transport secretary, said: "It is still really a motion about confidence in this prime minister... I haven't got confidence in this prime minister, not only myself but apparently most of the Tory Party and certainly the country."

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Smith is caught in Wilson's dilemma

By PETER RIDDELL, POLITICAL EDITOR

A LEADER of the Opposition is under pressure to attack an unpopular and divided government over an issue where there is little real difference between the parties. Most Labour MPs want their leader to go for the jugular. That is the course of unity, even if not consistency. That was Harold Wilson's predicament after 1970 and it is John Smith's now, ahead of next Wednesday's European debate in the Commons.

Parallels with the early 1970s should not be taken too far. But the dilemma is the same: how to be an active Opposition while looking like a credible alternative government. Mr Wilson's position

the government's flaccid of the past six weeks, even pro-EC Labour MPs agree with the shadow cabinet's decision last night to vote against the government in view of Mr Major's decision to elevate next week's debate into an issue of confidence, whatever the terms of the motion.

That is more convincing than the other Labour argument that the Maastricht bill should not be revived until the EC attitude to the new Danish proposals is considered at the Edinburgh summit in mid-December. That is as thin as Mr Wilson's complaints about entry terms not being right.

But does this tactical stance, which should unite almost all Tory MPs behind the prime minister, compromise Labour's underlying European credentials? Mr Smith will argue next week that a Labour government would press ahead with Maastricht, with the addition of the social chapter. The real test will be what the party does over the bill itself. Diehard critics of the EC argue that Labour has the chance to unite with Tory Euro-sceptics to defeat the bill. Labour leaders do not believe there is any realistic chance of bringing down the government. Hence, while Labour should oppose closure or guillotine motions, it should not vote against the bill.

Pro-EC Labour MPs are, however, worried that any short-term gains from these manoeuvres may compromise the party's long-term prospects. Labour has not been trusted. Its support for the EC has symbolised its willingness to modernise. Any fudging on Maastricht would undermine voters' trust and the party's credibility. Mr Smith has a strong hand at present, but he should not overplay it.

RIDDELL
ON POLITICS

was much weaker than Mr Smith's is now. If Labour had won the election in 1970, it would have made a fresh bid to join the Community on roughly the same terms that the Heath government accepted. In face of a divided party, Mr Wilson sought unity and used the pretext that the terms were not right to justify opposition, even though 69 MPs, including a young Mr Smith, defied the whips and voted for entry in principle in October 1971. Mr Wilson paid a price for his manoeuvres in damage to the party's credibility. Labour regained office in 1974 thanks more to the government's failures than its own efforts.

Mr Smith has greater freedom of manoeuvre. He received the overwhelming backing of his party for a strongly pro-EC position at Labour's conference a month ago. The anti-EC forces, while vocal, are much weaker than 20 years ago. But following

Labour sets up drive to beat Major

Continued from page 1
hook. But they were also seized upon by the headline rebels who demanded that Britain should be granted any new concessions allowed to Denmark to get it through its ratification process.

The shadow cabinet decided that it would require all Labour MPs to vote against the government on Wednesday. If there is a technical motion it will vote against it; if, as now seems almost certain, it is a substantive motion, Labour will table an amendment complaining that the bill is being brought back too soon. Its decision means that Mr Major will need to table a substantive motion to be sure of securing the votes of the Liberal Democrats.

At a London press conference Mr Major said there was no conflict between Britain starting the ratification process and Denmark negotiating with the EC on the terms it needed to put Maastricht back to its people in a second referendum. Asked whether he would resign if he lost the vote, Mr Major replied: "I do not believe we are going to lose the vote."

Mr Major ruled out any renegotiation of the treaty to make Danish ratification more likely. "There is no intention of renegotiating the treaty itself."

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Danish deal boosts UK role

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN STRASBOURG

PUBLICATION of the Danish government's new bargaining position over Maastricht has helped to put Britain's EC presidency back on track, according to Tristram Garel-Jones, the Foreign Office minister.

The Danish parliament is to formally agree a list of requested changes to the Maastricht treaty tomorrow. Mr Garel-Jones said yesterday that he was "pretty confident" that Britain could now steer the EC back into "safe harbour" with a deal reconciling Denmark and other EC countries.

If Britain can persuade the rest of the EC to "change the treaty without amending it", as Poul Schluter, the Danish prime minister, puts it, Denmark may be able to have the treaty passed in a referendum just under a year from now. Britain wants to hammer out the compromise at the Edinburgh summit in December.

The EC plan to push Maastricht through runs on two tracks. First, the jumble of supra-national and inter-governmental institutions are supposed to come closer to the people. The Edinburgh summit will write solemn declarations on subsidiarity, openness and accessibility.

The rhetoric has to be converted into measures. Yesterday, the European Commission made clear that it would fight any attempt to roll back its powers. Members agree that they will subject their ideas to tests to make sure that they are necessary, but will not countenance any drive to "stop the film" of EC development.

Commission advisers say the EC must have the strength to regulate the single market. The House of Commons committee on Europe has just released an analysis of Maastricht by one of its senior lawyers, Gordon Gammie. Subsidiarity is fine as a political principle, he says, but making it legally enforceable is fraught with complexity. Will a political restraint be enough for Mr Major to let sceptics he has named Jacques Delors?

The second set of changes will be tailored for Denmark, its demands now essentially limited to insisting on guarantees that Danes will not serve in any European army, an opt-out from a single currency, and promises that the EC cannot push non-Danes into Danish citizenship.

"One or two points" will be hard, a senior British source said yesterday. That understatement is the measure of the distance Mr Major must go to be sure of any success in Edinburgh.

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Robbery case man changed in ten days into intoxicated zombie, court told

Police prisoner died 'after injections of drug cocktail'

By PETER VICTOR

A MAN in police custody died after being given large doses of five powerful drugs by two police surgeons, a court heard yesterday.

Graham Rawlinson, 23, a returned prisoner being held on suspicion of robbery, changed in ten days from a fit, healthy young man into an intoxicated zombie, Nottingham Crown Court was told.

Rawlinson, a roofer, of Levenshulme, Manchester, where he lived with his girlfriend and three year old son, was a registered heroin addict and had been treated for his drug dependency after being transferred from Strangeways prison following the riots in May 1990, said Peter Birts, QC, for the prosecution.

In September he was transferred to Grimsby police station and came under the supervision of Dr Churiam Salim and his colleague Dr Dhirendra Saha. The prosecution alleges that both doctors recklessly over prescribed a toxic combination of five drugs which led to Rawlinson's death by pulmonary oedema.

Dr Saha, 55, of Grimsby, and Dr Salim, also 55, of Waltham, Grimsby, deny manslaughter. The two doctors prescribed 160mg of the tranquilliser Temazepam, which has a maximum safe dose of 60mg, and 80mg of the tranquilliser Valium, although the maximum safe dose is 30mg. He was also prescribed Largactil, a potent drug which is used in the treatment of mental illness and also acts to emphasise the effect of the

other drugs. "From his third day at Grimsby he was receiving five times the maximum safe dosage of tranquilliser drugs," Mr Birts said.

Two days after he was transferred police officers and Mr Rawlinson's cell mates noticed a change in his appearance and how he began to slur his speech, became unsteady on his feet and acted as if he was a zombie, the court was told. "The day before he died he was unable to talk — he was not just zombie-like but had become quite incoherent," Mr Birts said.

The combination of drugs was administered until the sixth day when a fourth drug, Methadone, used for treating drugs addicts experiencing the pain of withdrawal symptoms, was introduced, taken up.

Diane McCarrick, Rawlinson's girlfriend, telephoned him the day before he died but found him difficult to understand. She later telephoned back and complained to police about his condition. In the afternoon Rawlinson telephoned his mother but she found him incoherent and inaudible.

The drugs finally shut down Rawlinson's heart's pumping action, the court was told. After being rushed into emergency at a local hospital Rawlinson was sent back to police cells, where he died early the following morning. Mr Birts said: "The last thing Graham Rawlinson as a former addict should have been given were these powerful long-acting drugs."

Hours before Rawlinson's death Dr Salim had examined



Denying manslaughter: Dr Churiam Salim, left, and Dr Dhirendra Saha, who attended to Graham Rawlinson



him and made a note expressing his worries over the levels of drugs Rawlinson was receiving. Mr Birts said: "It was a story of gross over-prescription. It was unlawful killing by reckless or gross negligence." He said that just 48 hours before Rawlinson's death Dr Salim wrote on Rawlinson's records that the levels of dosages he was receiving should be "tailed off", although he failed to act upon his own diagnosis.

Mr Birts said Rawlinson was fitter and more alert in police custody than when arrested because since his arrest he had been successfully weaned off drugs and was making good progress. "But in Grimsby he came under the

medical supervision of the two defendants, who were responsible for prisoners held in custody. It was a gross miscalculation to prescribe as they did and demonstrates a lamentable lack of regard for the care and safety of their patient."

Earlier, the court heard how a relief surgeon, called in while both doctors were on holiday, was shocked when he discovered the level of prescriptions being given to prisoners in the cells at Grimsby. Dr Derek Luck refused to increase or maintain prescription levels when he attended the police station in May 1990, six months before Rawlinson's death.

The case continues today.



Rawlinson: cell mates said speech was slurred

Man remanded over chopped-off hand

A man was remanded in custody yesterday, charged with attempting to murder a policeman whose hand was severed with a ceremonial samurai sword. Peter Gilchrist, 33, a warehouseman, was accused in Haringey magistrates' court of trying to kill Det Sgt Bob Window two days ago at a flat in Tottenham, north London. An application for bail was refused.

Det Sgt Window, 39, a father of two, is recovering in Mount Vernon Hospital, northwest London, after surgeons worked for 11½ hours to re-attach his left hand. He said yesterday that he already had some feeling in his fingers and was optimistic that he might be able to return to work. He praised everyone involved in his recovery, from air ambulance crew to paramedics, nurses, surgeons and hospital staff. "I just cannot believe how great everyone has been," he said. "They have all been fantastic."

David Gault, consultant plastic surgeon at the hospital, said that Det Sgt Window's chances of recovery were excellent. It was hoped that he would be able to resume driving and playing cricket.

Police seize 'UDA files'

Police yesterday launched their biggest crackdown against the loyalist Ulster Defence Association since it was outlawed in August. Members of the specialist C13 anti-racketeering squad, backed by uniformed officers, carried out widespread raids on premises across Protestant areas of Belfast searching for evidence of the UDA's illegal money-raising and laundering operations. More than 100 RUC members were believed to be involved. In the north of the city they raided about 20 private houses and at least two business premises. Carrying documentation signed by Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland secretary, the officers took away files and computers, which will be studied by C13. It is understood no arrests are planned at this stage.

Ford orders cuts

Ford is to close its biggest UK plant for a week as the recession drives the company into further cuts in production. More than 5,000 workers at Dagenham, Essex, have been told to stay at home next week. Ford will lose production of more than 5,000 cars worth about £45 million. Yesterday Ford Motor Company reported in Detroit worldwide losses of £93 million in the third quarter of the year. Its British and European operations are expected to run up a deficit for the second year running. Ford, page 26

Orkney chief staying on

Paul Lee, the Orkney social work director who told staff to take nine children from home in dawn raids, said yesterday that he would not resign. He was criticised in Lord Clyde's report, published on Tuesday, on council and police handling of allegations of ritual abuse. The Royal Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, whose officials were condemned for not keeping an open mind about the allegations, said it would probably be reluctant to become involved in investigating such complex cases again.

Charity warns of unrest

Increased social unrest could follow any further cuts in funds for community projects, the Children's Society said yesterday. The charity, which announced a deficit of £300,000 for 1991-2 at its annual meeting, said fundraising was becoming more difficult as the recession deepened. Families living on estates "blighted by poverty and unemployment" were hardest hit. More reductions in expenditure on projects run with local authorities would be the final blow, the charity said.

Rape reform urged

A radical revamp of rape legislation is needed for male and female victims, the Commons was told yesterday. A ten-minute rule bill, sponsored by Harry Cohen, Labour MP for Leyton, proposes changes in the law to provide more rights for victims and to recognise male rape and rape within marriage as offences. The bill was given a formal first reading. However, unless adopted by the Home Office, it has no chance of becoming law because of lack of parliamentary time. Leading article, page 21

Beckett's forgotten dream stirs up a fair to middling storm



Beckett: was known not to be proud of the book

BY EDWARD GORMAN
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT
SAMUEL Beckett's first novel, written 60 years ago in Paris, was published for the first time in Dublin yesterday amid a publisher's row about its failure also to appear in Britain.

Dream of Fair to Middling Women, an autobiographical story of a young man's travels through Europe and his deeply self-reflective musings on art and sex, was a work of which Beckett was not proud: indeed, he went so far as to describe it as "a bit of old shit". However, he agreed to a request by Eoin O'Brien, a

Samuel Beckett's early musings on sex and art are published posthumously amid stirrings of controversy

Dublin cardiologist and Beckett enthusiast who knew the author well, that he edit and publish the work posthumously through his Black Cat Press.

Dr O'Brien's hardback first edition may eventually retail in Britain at £18.99, but may not be available for some years. The reason for the delay, which was criticised by leading figures in the publishing industry yesterday, lies in a dispute between Dr O'Brien

and John Calder, whose London-based company has published most of Beckett's prose and poetry to date.

Mr Calder, who was also a close friend of Beckett, was to have published *Dream* in collaboration with Dr O'Brien but he backed out because of what he considers the extravagance of the edition. "They've gone overboard on the thing," he said yesterday. "The editor of the book just went wild with

special paper, wide margins and so on. It's a novel, not an art book." Mr Calder said that he hoped to strike a distribution deal in Britain for the Black Cat edition, but it had not been possible because of disputes over financing.

Dr O'Brien said that Mr Calder had wanted to "alter the original quality of the publication" to the extent that he did not feel happy that it would have done justice to a first publication of a work by Beckett. He said he hoped that some of the 8,000 first edition copies launched at the Dublin Writers Museum would find their way to Britain.

The failure of the book to

appear in London was described as a scandal by an editor at a leading publishing house. "Apart from not serving Beckett's reputation, it doesn't serve the interests of the reading public. There is a terrific following for Beckett."

Other critics believe that the dispute underlines the unsatisfactory circumstance of a leading author being published by a small house. "I would even go so far as to say it is time to go back and look at the original manuscripts — there should be a definitive complete works of Beckett," one said.

Diary, page 20

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Rise in offences

Reported crime up 11% but bigger total stays hidden

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

RECORDED crime rose 11 per cent to 5.5 million offences in the 12 months to July but the rate of increase is apparently slowing, according to Home Office figures published yesterday.

However, the findings of a crime survey, also released yesterday showed that the majority of crimes were not reported to the police. The British Crime Survey, which covers England and Wales, found that for every offence recorded by the police, two crimes went unreported, suggesting that many people regarded crime as part of life.

The survey estimated 15 million crimes occurred in 1991. It found the increase in offences, reported or not, since 1981 was 49 per cent. The percentage of offences reported to the police had risen from 31 in 1981 to 43 last year, but those recorded by the police rose 96 per cent over the decade.

The survey found that many crimes, such as the theft of milk, were not reported because victims believed they were not serious enough or that the police would be unable to take effective action. It said the increase in recorded crime could be because of more offences being reported to the police, perhaps due to the rise in telephone ownership from 75 per cent in 1981 to 88 per cent in 1991.

According to the survey burglary and other thefts, reported or not, have increased since 1981 at a similar rate to recorded crime and have nearly doubled. But the

survey found that vandalism and crimes of violence had risen much less rapidly than indicated by police statistics. Since 1987 acquisitive crime, vandalism and violent offences recorded by the police had risen 39 per cent, compared with 14 per cent according to the survey.

The survey, carried out earlier this year, involved interviews with 10,000 people across the country. It reflected the findings of three earlier studies which showed a gap between the number of crimes committed and the number recorded by police.

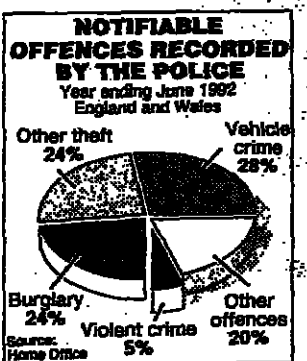
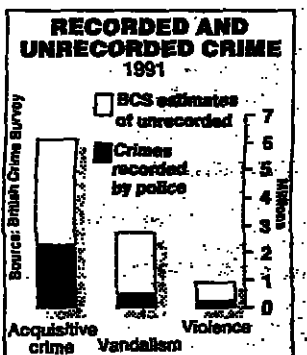
Michael Jack, a junior Home Office minister, said: "It is reassuring that our in-depth look at crime through the British Crime Survey has shown that over the Eighties the increase in crime is less than the recorded crime statistic would suggest." He added: "We take some encouragement from the figures but I do not want anybody to think we are being complacent." Crime was still unacceptably high.

The survey found that most crimes were against property with 36 per cent involving a vehicle, 9 per cent were burglaries and 30 per cent were other kinds of theft. Violent crime, including wounding and robbery, accounted for 5 per cent of the total, but assaults involving little or no injury accounted for a further 12 per cent of offences. The survey did not include crime involving children under 16, shoplifting, fraud or commercial burglaries.

Home Office officials believe that the survey provided a more accurate assessment of the real level of crime than the snapshot reports of offences recorded by police. They said that recorded crime figures can be misleading about trends, especially as readiness to report crime to the police is determined by various factors, including insurance requirements. In 1991, 50 per cent of theft or damage incidents were covered by insurance, compared with 37 per cent in 1987.

Figures for sex crimes were often linked with police tactics, such as whether they made the reporting of rape easier or how seriously they pursued homosexual offenders.

The 11 per cent rise in crime in England and Wales to the end of June compared with 18 per cent to the end of June 1991, Tony Blair, the shadow home secretary, said: "The government shows a complacent disregard for what, on any basis, are appalling figures."



Relative rates of crime and attempted crime

	Burglary	Auto crime around homes	Theft from person
Low risk			
Agricultural areas	20	20	50
Modern family housing	80	70	70
Older middle-status housing	70	100	60
Affluent suburban housing	70	70	70
Better-off retirement areas	70	80	70
Medium risk			
Older tenanted housing	120	160	100
Better-off council estates	90	110	120
Less well-off council estates	150	160	100
High risk			
Poorest council estates	280	240	200
Mixed inner metropolitan areas	180	190	340
High-status non-family areas	220	150	250
Indexed national average	100	100	100

Source: British Crime Survey 1992

Desirable city areas top mugging target

PEOPLE living in fashionable districts of cities where few young families live are more at risk of being mugged or having their homes burgled than people in other areas of the country, apart from deprived council estates and mixed inner city areas (Richard Ford writes).

Residents of London boroughs such as Kensington and Chelsea face a risk of burglary 2.2 times the average and a risk of robbery and theft from the person that is 2.5 times the average, according to the findings of the British Crime Survey.

Only people living in the poorest council estates have a higher risk of burglary, though residents of mixed

inner city areas face the highest risk of becoming the victim of a robbery or theft from the person.

The survey found that a person living in a mixed inner city area had a risk of mugging which was 3.4 times the national average. This compared with 2.0 for those living in the poorest council estates and half the average for those in agricultural districts.

People living on the poorest council estates faced the highest risk of burglary and car crime around their homes: 2.8 and 2.4 times the average respectively. But for residents in a low risk areas such as agricultural districts, the risk of burglary and car crime is only a fifth of the average.



Game aids disabled therapy

Flying Mice: Daniel Hurley, 7, left, putting a computer game for disabled people through its paces yesterday. The computer system, called Mice, encourages disabled people to exercise and gain better control of their bodies by playing games (Nick Nuttall writes).

It uses sensors linked to the patient's limbs to monitor control of movement. Daniel, whose father is on the physical therapy teaching staff at King's College Hospital, London, piloted a fighter aircraft using his wrists, ankles and arms.

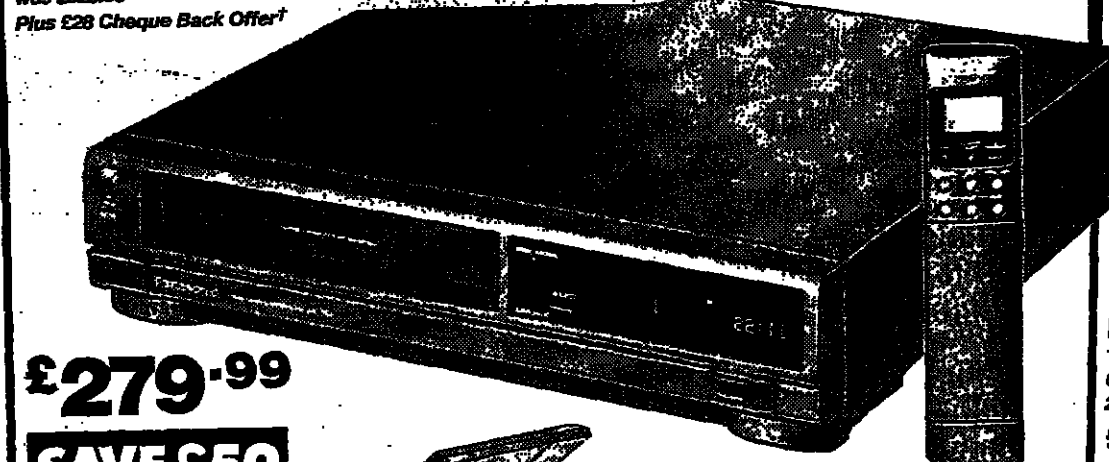
Peter Ramage, of Penny and Giles Biometrics, of Blackwood, Gwent, which developed the device, said that the system could be used as part of therapy. After a session, a printout could be obtained to compare improvements in movement. The system would also allow older people to access a computer for work, communication, exercise, play or information.

Unlike earlier systems, Mice uses small, light sensors attached to the skin. The sensitivity of the sensors can be matched to the level of a person's disability.

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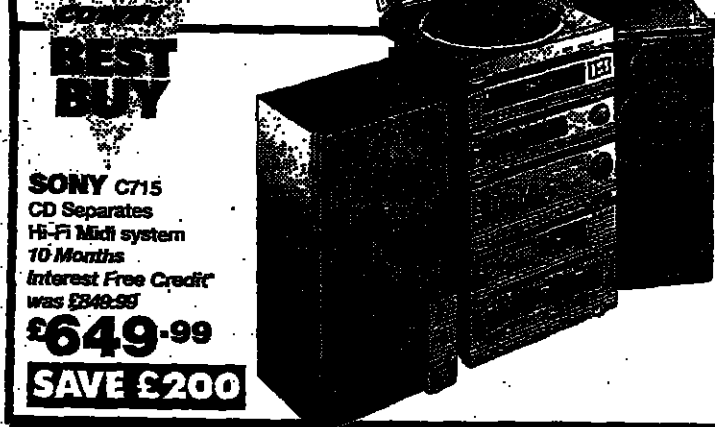
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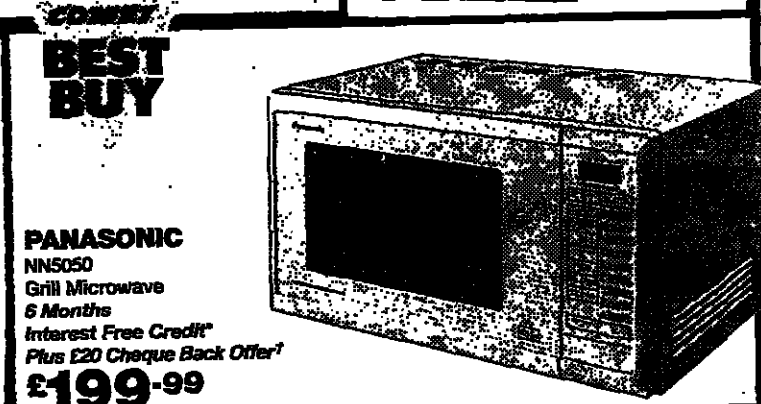
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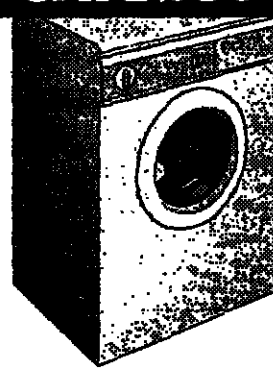


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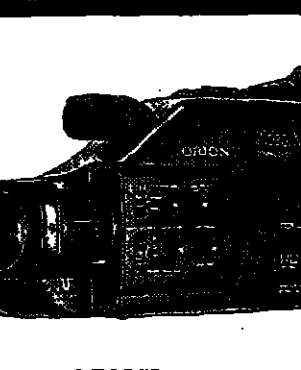
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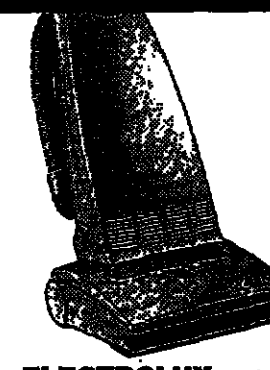
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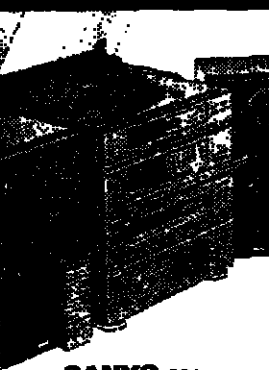
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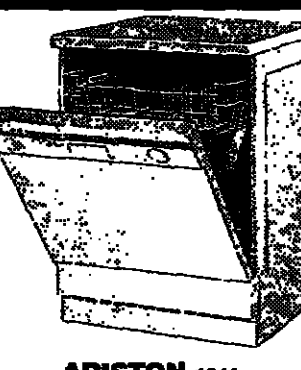
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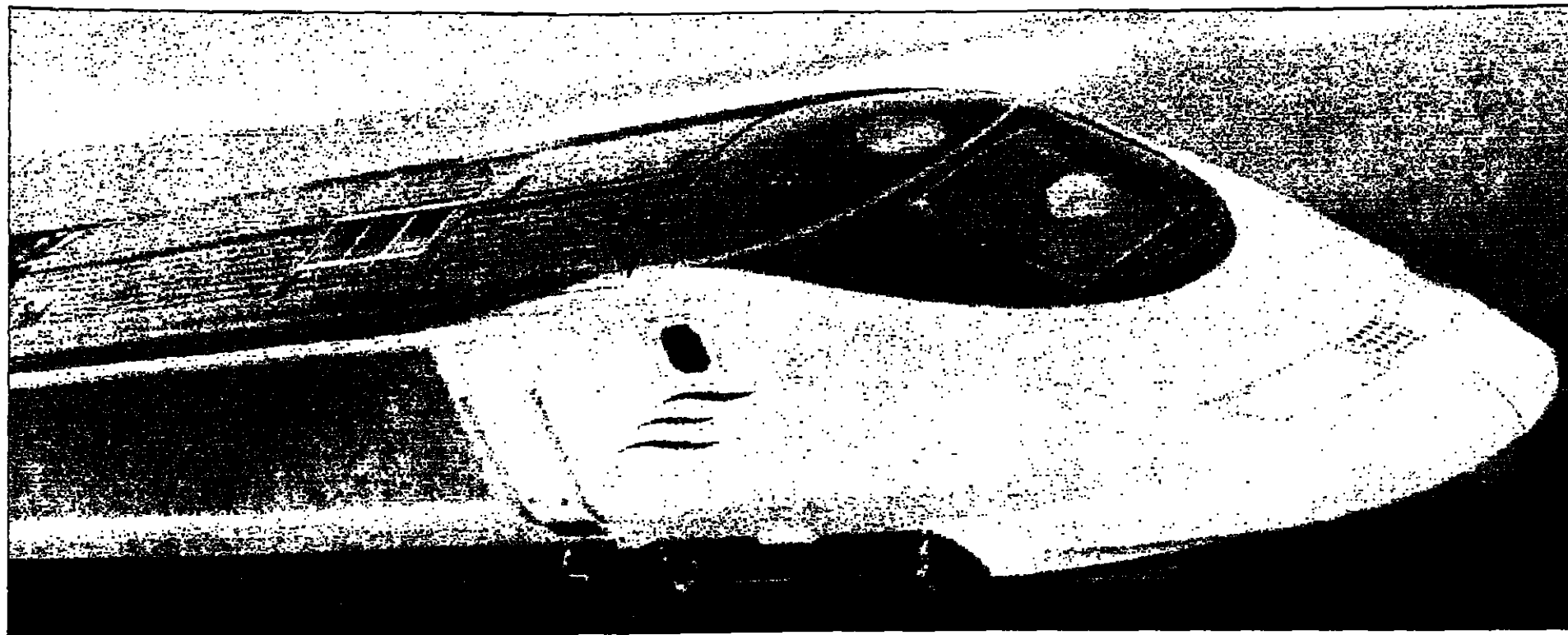
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Eurostar 186mph trains promise London-Paris trip in three hours



Fast mover... except through Kent, where a leisurely 60mph will, as the BR chairman says, give passengers the advantage of having ample time to enjoy the view

SIXTY high speed trains a day will run between London, Paris and Brussels through the Channel tunnel when international rail services are launched in 1994. British, French and Belgian railways announced yesterday (Michael Dines writes from Paris).

The services will be marketed under the Eurostar name and travel up to 186mph, offering journey times between London and Paris of 3 hours, and between London and Brussels of 3 hours 15 minutes. The service plans to erode the dominance of air transport in the London, Paris,

Brussels short haul markets, with a first class return ticket likely to be between £200 and £350. Economy and Apex tickets will also be available.

Completion of the proposed high-speed line between Brussels and Lille, in France, in 1996 will reduce journey times between London and Brussels to 2 hours 40 minutes. Britain's proposed Channel tunnel high speed rail link, expected at the turn of the century, will cut journey times by a further 30 minutes. Three termini are being built for the Eurostar service, which will run

between Waterloo International in London, Gare du Nord in Paris, and Gare du Midi in Brussels. An additional terminal is planned at King's Cross station to serve the Channel tunnel rail link.

The Eurostar service is being seen as the first components of the proposed European high-speed rail network which promises to bring significant reductions in rail journey times across Europe. Eurostar's £500 million fleet of 38 Transmanche super-trains, seven of which have been designed to travel to destinations including Edin-

burgh, Birmingham and Manchester, will use the tunnel with Eurotunnel's shuttle trains, which will carry road vehicles.

The Transmanche super-trains, each a quarter of a mile long, will be capable of speeds up to 186mph. These will, however, be achieved only in France. In Britain, average speeds will be nearer 60mph although the trains can do a maximum 100mph on some sections of the existing line between Folkestone and Waterloo. The trains are modified versions of the French *Train à Grande Vitesse*. Because Britain's

loading gauge is smaller than that in continental Europe, the trains have to be built to a smaller scale. Technical difficulties encountered in building the trains to British standards have led to one year delivery delays.

Asked if he was embarrassed about the slow speed of the high-speed trains once they reach Britain, Sir Bob Reid, BR chairman, said: "There are advantages of going through Kent slowly. It is one of the most beautiful parts of the country. Passengers will enjoy going through it at a leisurely pace."

Arts world scours the cosmos in search of cultural clues

BY ALISON ROBERTS
ARTS REPORTER

ONE year after the playwright David Hare asserted that Keats really was better than Bob Dylan, the great and the good in British arts and broadcasting sat down yesterday to resolve the question: what is culture and to whom does it belong?

After almost two hours, Professor Christopher Frayling, of the Royal College of Art, summed up: "We haven't come up with any answers, but you never do when you start with such a cosmic question."

Billed as The Culture Debate and forming a centrepiece to the three-day arts and broadcasting conference in Brighton, the discussion was shot full of contradiction. Jeremy Isaacs, general director of the Royal Opera House, affirmed his belief in the plurality of cultures. "Every-one supports a football team

■ The essence of culture has eluded the world for centuries. A conference in Brighton yesterday concluded that the answer may be delayed a little longer

and everyone eats baked beans, but they also enjoy an expensive meal now and again," he said inexplicably.

The author and playwright Fay Weldon said that television had destroyed one culture and provided a lesser version in its place. "Why read books when television provides you with your window on the world? What has happened to the music halls and pop songs that used to sweep through the country?" she asked, with tongue firmly in cheek.

Alan Yentob, controller of BBC2, defended the "box in the corner". It had democratised culture by allowing everyone access to the traditionally

high arts. Screening opera on BBC2 had proved a successful leveller and had helped to redefine opera's audience.

The journalist Patrick Wright set out to provide a historical view. There had always been an opposition between popular and high-brow culture, he said. Before Keats and Dylan, it had been the Beatles versus Beethoven. "Then something happened in the eighties... and now there should be a reassessment of the nineties," he said vaguely.

The panel agreed that arts and culture were separate. Brian Eno, known for his experimental pop music, said that the man on the street still

did not have access to a variety of both. That would be resolved with the advent of more television channels.

Others disagreed hotly. Dennis Marks, head of music programmes at the BBC, said that the reverse was true. "What one actually finds is that, with the exception of certain services — pornography and sport for example — the mix is very much smaller when there are 500 channels."

The nation's cultural life would suffer if broadcasting was subject to the "censorship of the textbook", he said, and then there would be no cultural debate to be had. No one dared to say that that might be no bad thing.

Television itself was culture and it certainly created the popular kind, the poet Liz Lochhead said. The important question was who controlled television and who chose what to put on. Normally such people were white, middle class and male, she said to applause. Culture was defined by what people saw on television: images that were usually stereotypical.

Mr Yentob said that value judgments had to be made. Minority and popular cultures had to be represented on the BBC to ensure that the corporation belonged to everyone. "We do have a responsibility to a wide audience and, by making certain judgments, we are telling people about what our values and priorities are."

The writer Mike Phillips rounded the debate off by voicing the feelings of many in the audience. "I remember hearing David Hare's comments about whether Keats was better than Dylan and thinking afterwards: 'Who cares anyway?'"

Prince urges moral aspect to education

BY ALAN HAMILTON

EVER-HIGHER requirements for technical and vocational learning in schools should not be achieved at the expense of life's more cultural disciplines, the Prince of Wales told a conference of businessmen and educationists yesterday.

The prince was continuing a theme he launched last year, when he complained bitterly at the average British school-child's ignorance of Shakespeare. In his speech in Salford, Greater Manchester, yesterday, he returned to promoting the spiritual side of life in a technological society.

Education was not just for work, but for life, he said. It was a process which had to prepare young people for the assumption of responsibility, for an active approach to citizenship and for an understanding of life's spiritual and moral dimensions: values which were too easily submerged in the endless search for short-term profit or buried beneath the more debilitating aspects of consumerism.

"Dealing adequately with these needs means placing proper emphasis on an appreciation of history, literature, art and drama — all parts of our extraordinarily rich cultural heritage," the prince said.

He plans to launch a summer school for teachers next year to improve their appreciation of Shakespeare. Yesterday, he noted with approval a scheme launched by the English Shakespeare Company and supported by the computer company IBM to help young pupils develop an understanding of the Bard's theatre. He has said he never understood the plays when taught them at Gordonstoun, but only when, in later life, he

saw them performed by Kenneth Branagh.

The prince also claimed success for the "Compact" idea of partnerships between individual schools and local business and industry. A total of 140 such schemes are now operating, whereby pupils are offered work experience and lectures from businessmen, who in turn offer their expertise to help to run the school.

England had traditionally given a low priority to education compared with its neighbours, but it should not be tempted to let educational standards slide during a recession, the prince said. "The present recession is causing pain and difficulty throughout the community, and has affected the highly skilled almost as much as those without qualifications. It has been particularly demoralising for those who have raised their sights and been successful in further and higher education, only to find that employment opportunities are still depressingly scarce."

The way it isn't

CRAIG BROWN



ETIQUETTE Lesson No 1 (how to converse with people at parties):

"How are you settling in, then?" (John Major).

"Sausage roll?" (Linda McCartney).

"Sure that you're warm enough?" (Madonna).

"Is the disco-music loud enough for you?" (Sir Kingsley Amis).

"And you are...?" (Lord Owen).

"Keeping busy, then?" (Prince Edward).

"Hi! You must be the mud-wrestler!" (Andrea Dworkin).

"Orange or lemon?" (John Osborne).

"I find ordinary, decent people so much more interesting, don't you?" (Betty Kentward).

"What a marvellous mask!" (Sir Roy Strong).

"Stand by for the hockey-cocky!" (Sir Edward Heath).

"Help yourself to the lager!" (Lord Jenkins of Hillhead).

"Quick! It's The Birdy Song!" (Sir Norman Fowler).

"These vicars and tarts parties are always good for a laugh, don't you think?" (Ian Paisley).

"Let me introduce you to Sue. Sue's a typist from Worthing and she doesn't know a soul!" (Lord Weidenfeld).

"Cheer up! It might never happen!" (Norman Lamont).

"We've been seeing a lot of you in the papers recently" (the Duchess of York).

"Can I get you a chair?" (Mick Jagger).

"No rest for the wicked, eh?" (Kevin Maxwell).

"Still, you've got to laugh" (Harold Pinter).

Festival to mark Leeds centenary

TWO ballets, a violin concerto, another for piano and wind instruments and an oratorio have been commissioned as part of a £1.25 million programme of events to celebrate the centenary of the city of Leeds next year (Paul Wilkinson writes).

"The success of Leeds in all sorts of spheres is one of the city's best-kept secrets. Now we want the world to know how good we are," Bernard Alha, chairman of the city council's centenary committee, said at its launch yesterday. "We are the second largest [city] in

Britain in terms of size, the third in population, with a mosaic of activities.

"For too long people have thought of us as a dirty, smoky horror. That has long gone. Leeds was recently called the greenest city in Europe after Vienna."

The two ballets, one classical and one with a jazz theme are being created by Northern Ballet, which is based in the city. Howard Blake, who wrote the music for *The Snowman*, Raymond Briggs' classic cartoon, and was commissioned by the Princess of

Wales to write a piano concerto for her thirtieth birthday, is preparing a violin concerto for performance by Christiane Edinger, the German soloist, next February.

A piano and wind composition by David Bedford, the contemporary London composer, will have its premiere in July as the climax of a festival of wind music in Leeds during the first half of next year. The choral piece, *A Song of Liberty*, was written for the celebrations by Dmitri Smirnov, the Russian composer.

Nude bathers face beach ban

BY MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

MEMBERS of the National Trust are calling for the banning of nudists from Britain's biggest and best-known nudist beach, claiming that indecent behaviour has increased and that children are at risk.

Stadland Bay, in Dorset, where local legend has it that naked bathing was begun by Virginia Woolf and other members of the Bloomsbury group, is often described as the loveliest on the south coast, with four miles of fine sand, of which nudists have traditionally used about half a mile. In the height of summer, up to 7,000 naked bodies take the air on the beach, which is owned by the trust.

A resolution before the trust's annual meeting, to be held next month in Birmingham, alleges that indecent and threatening behaviour towards women has become commonplace, that children are at risk and that local people are avoiding the beach. The motion calls for the trust to make clear that "nudists are not welcome".

This summer, there have been several prosecutions for indecency on and near the beach, but the Central Council for British Nudism vehemently denies that bona fide nudists are responsible. "The suggestion is ludicrous," Suzanne Piper, its spokes-



woman, said. "Along with everybody else, we want to see anyone who is causing offence dealt with by the police."

The resolution, with 16 signatures, has been proposed by Roland Hitchcock, a computer consultant from Bourne-mouth, who put forward a similar resolution at the annual meeting in 1989. It was disallowed on procedural grounds. He said: "There's a huge area that the nudists have taken over with their bully-boy tactics and the authorities have just given up trying to clear them out. There are a lot of complaints and it's

serious, but the National Trust are trying to deny there's a problem."

The governing council of the trust, which took over Stadland in 1982, rejects his proposal, denying that there is concern within the trust or that people are being advised to avoid the area. Discussions will take place with police on how to control "the activities of a small minority of visitors whose behaviour causes offence", the council says in a statement, adding: "The trust has not sought to influence public opinion on the extent to which naturism should or should not be allowed."

Liz Roberts, public affairs manager for the trust's Wessex region, said that the trust had taken over an established tradition of naturism when it inherited the property. "It's not something we would want to put a stop to, indeed I don't think you could," she said. "The trust's view is, live and let live. Simple naturism is not against the law, and we take the view it should be allowed to continue peacefully."

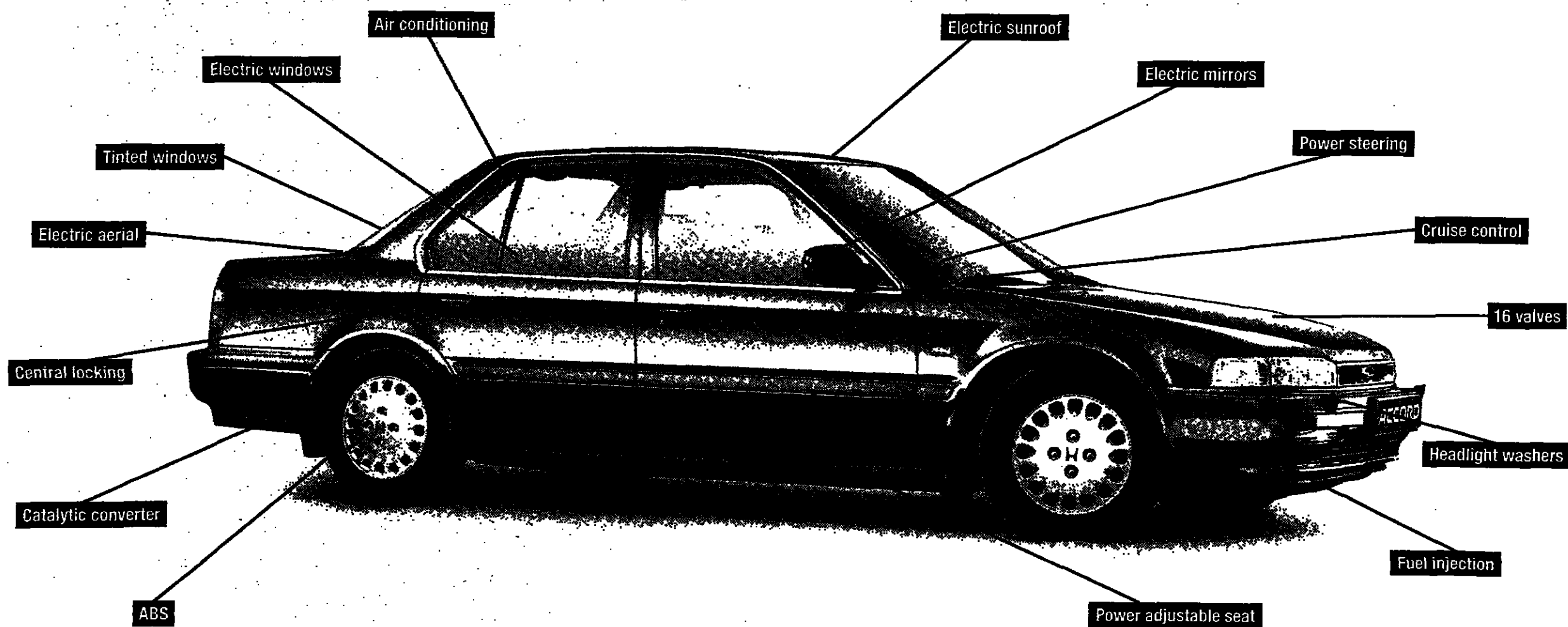
This summer, she said, the trust had co-operated with a police operation against men allegedly committing acts of gross indecency in nearby sand dunes, which had resulted in 13 arrests and eight prosecutions.

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Road accident or air crash 'could cause nuclear blast'

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

THE safety of British nuclear weapons cannot be guaranteed, a report published today asserts.

In spite of assurances by the defence ministry that the possibility of accidental detonation is extremely remote, the report says that Britain has failed to take full account of an American enquiry that revealed the dangers.

All three British nuclear weapons — the WE177 free-fall bomb, the Chevaline warhead on the Polaris missiles, and the D5 missiles in the new Trident submarines — could produce accidental detonations or the dispersal of plutonium as a result of fire or shock, the British American Security Information Council (Basic) claims.

"Such accidents could occur, for example, during a road accident with a petrochemical truck, a submarine fire, a submarine loading accident or an aircraft crash," Basic says in a new report on nuclear weapons safety. A safety re-

view by Professor Sir Ron Oxburgh, chief scientific adviser to the ministry, which was published in July, had left serious questions unanswered, the report says.

In particular, Basic says, Sir Ron did not examine the effect that fire would have on weapons involved in a road accident. Nor did he consider design flaws in the D5 missile that have caused concern in the US — the lack of safety features in the warhead, and its proximity to explosive fuel in the missile itself.

Concern about nuclear weapons safety first arose after the US Congress commissioned Professor Sidney Drell, a physicist, to examine the risks. He called for a redesign of the Trident missile, warning that an explosion in the fuel tank could set off sensitive conventional explosives in the warhead, whose function is to trigger the nuclear explosion. Such an accident, Professor Drell said, could lead to an explosion producing "a plutonium dispersal, or possibly a nuclear yield".

The conventional explosives in a nuclear warhead surround the plutonium, and are designed to compress it and initiate the nuclear explosion when the weapon is detonated. A key issue identified by Professor Drell was whether an explosion at any single point in this conventional explosive could set off the weapon — the so-called "one-point safety" criterion. Sir Ron conceded in his report that he could not offer a definitive view as to whether British Trident warheads would meet this criterion.

The oldest nuclear weapon in Britain's armoury, the WE177 free-fall bomb, in service with the RAF, was said in the Oxburgh report to be of "elderly but robust design". Weapons of similar age in the US have undergone an improvement programme to increase safety, but no such programme appears to have been implemented in Britain. An unnamed US expert quoted by Basic says that the British failure to take similar action was "criminal and irresponsible".

Sir Ron did recommend a design review of the WE177 "as a prudent precaution". Basic says that the same should be done for the Polaris warheads, which are subject to the same uncertainties.

Basic's director, Dan Plesch, said yesterday that a claim made by Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, that British nuclear weapons were safe was "completely unjustified".

Mr Plesch said: "The Oxburgh report simply avoids the question of the safety of the Trident missiles. He doesn't discuss this in the whole of his report."



Bying a purchase: Jocelyn Tran, of the Hampshire Wildlife Trust, surveying the Lymington reedbeds, which the trust aims to buy and manage if it can raise £80,000 (John Young writes).

The 80 acres of marsh, fen and meadow, on the edge of the New Forest, are one of the largest remaining wetlands in the south of

England and is home to a rich variety of wildlife. Richard Tyler, assistant director of the trust, said yesterday that its most important inhabitant was probably the otter, which in southern England survives in only a few isolated areas. It appeared to be breeding successfully in the reedbeds, he said.

The beds also support large num-

bers of birds, including water rail, reed and sedge warblers, the rare Cetti's warbler and various migratory species such as swallows, house-martins and sandmartins. More than 300 types of moth and butterfly had been identified, as well as several rare plant species.

The Lymington reedbeds and the Lymington river are an integral part

of this area's history and culture," Jacqueline Guinness, organiser of the £80,000 appeal, said yesterday. "We are very excited about the prospects of looking after this site and ensuring that it remains a haven for wildlife."

Lymington gained importance as a port in medieval times because it was the lowest fording point of the

river into the Solent. In 1345 the town sent nine ships and 159 men with Edward III's fleet to support the invasion of France. In about 1730 a toll bridge was built over the river, which continued to collect tolls until 1967. The formation of the reedbeds was largely due to the silting up of the river above the causeway within the past 70 years.

Acid rain harms water life

By Michael McCarthy

FISH, waterbirds and animals in nearly a quarter of Britain's wildlife areas have probably declined because of acid rain, the government's wildlife and countryside advisers say today.

Species affected range from salmon and trout to the dipper, the otter and the waterjack snail. A report examines the effects of acid rain on lakes, ponds and streams in sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs).

It forecasts that damage to many of the areas will worsen even with the 60 per cent cut in the principal cause of acid rain, sulphur dioxide emissions from coal-burning power stations, which European Community law decrees must be made by 2003. The report wants more cuts.

The report from English Nature, the Countryside Council for Wales and Scottish Natural Heritage says that freshwater species on 141 SSSIs, covering more than a million acres — 24 per cent of the total — have probably suffered considerably.

Farming, page 18

Priest training cuts threaten colleges

By Ruth Gledhill, Religion Correspondent

THE future of three theological colleges is in doubt after a Church of England report published today recommended that ordination training at them should cease.

The cuts are an attempt to stem losses of nearly £1 million and follow a drop in the numbers accepted to train for the priesthood, on two- or three-year courses, from 350 in 1982 to 274 last year. The total number in training is about 760, compared to a capacity of 1,240.

Of 14 colleges, Mirfield College of the Resurrection in West Yorkshire, Salisbury and Wells theological college in Salisbury and Oak Hill theological college in Southgate, north London, are singled out for criticism.

The report, by two working parties chaired by the Bishop of Lincoln, the Rt Rev Robert Hardy, recommends ordina-

tion training should cease at these three colleges. Mirfield college, one of the church's best known Anglo-Catholic institutions, is criticised for refusing to train women.

Oak Hill college trains women inadequately, according to the report. Salisbury and Wells is financially insecure and fails to attract three-year degree candidates.

Bishop Hardy, who once failed to get a job as principal of Cuddesdon in Oxford when he said in his interview he wanted to close it down and move it to Manchester, called for more clergy to be trained in urban centres such as Manchester.

The report says the church's theological colleges lost £900,000 over three years and further losses are expected this year. Bishop Hardy said: "There is a time when someone has to blow a whistle and say, 'enough'. We are not talking about withdrawal of recognition for ordination training."

The report, *A Way Ahead*, will be debated by the general synod in November and sent to colleges for consultation. The House of Bishops will decide in January whether to endorse its recommendations.

The report is expected to have a stormy passage through the synod. Fourteen bishops, a quarter of the House of Bishops, voted against publication when they met earlier this week.



Bishop Hardy: "Whistle has to be blown"

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To delete a document on his computer, Mr. Brown has to think like a computer.

- #1 I inserted the floppy disk in the P.C. Nothing happened. I selected the document I wanted to delete. In this case I chose a letter to Susan Kilby coded LETSKSEP.DOC, which I'd saved on a floppy disk.
- #2 From the Program Manager I double-clicked on the "Main" icon.
- #3 I double-clicked on the "File Manager" icon.
- #4 I selected the proper drive. Had the file been on the hard disk I would have known that the C: drive was where I should look, since that always represents the hard drive (but of course, you knew that.) But since LETSKSEP.DOC was on the floppy disk, I knew that I should select the A: drive.
- #5 I clicked once on the document to select it.
- #6 I selected "delete" from the File Menu.
- #7 I clicked "O.K."
- #8 I clicked "Yes"

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Dr. Brown

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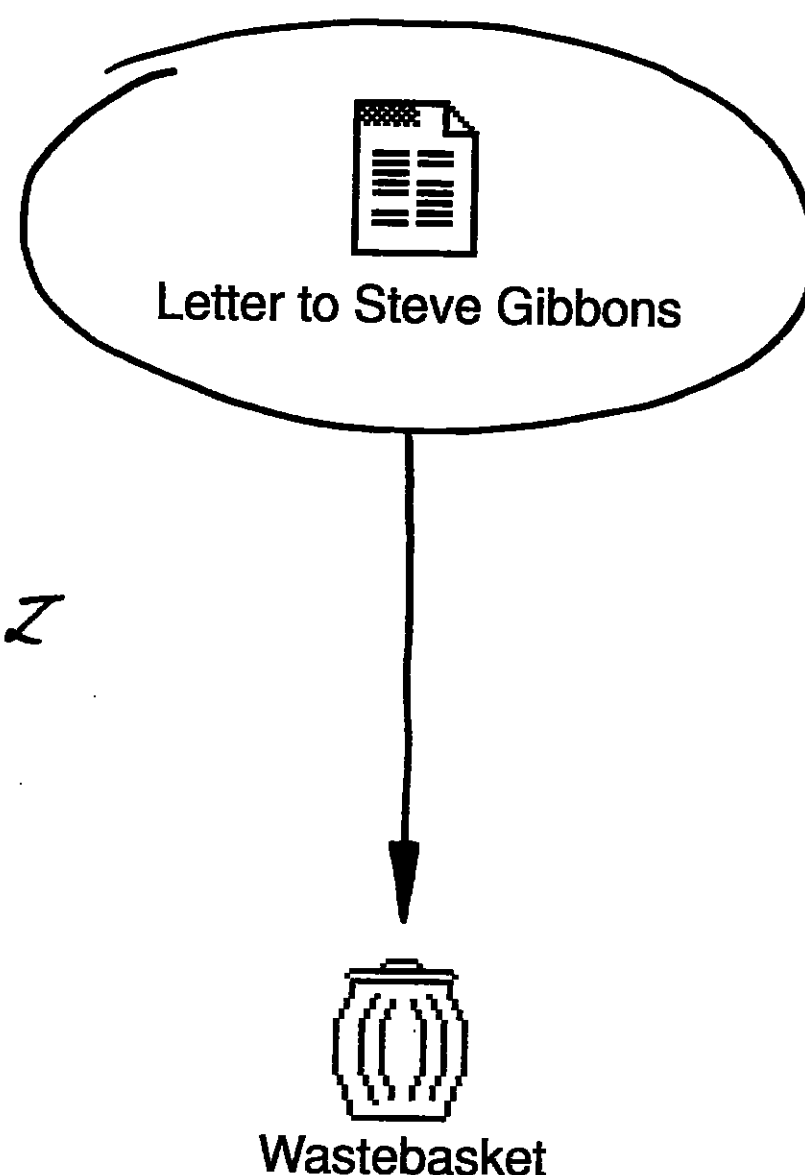
FIRST I popped in the floppy disk. The disk icon appeared on the screen.

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It only took a moment.

Chris Mitchell



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Judge protests as he is forced to set free child molester

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A MAN who molested his teenage daughter has been allowed to go free by a court because the local authority said that it could not afford the treatment he needed.

Mr Justice Ward told the High Court in London on Tuesday night that he was left with no alternative but to let the man go. He added: "I protest most strongly that my order is likely to have the most serious consequences."

The judge was faced with the dilemma after Nottingham County Council decided that it could not afford the £15,000 a year to treat the man at a special clinic. He will be "sent out into society" under an order banning him from his home and from having contact with his children unless under council supervision.

The judge found that the middle-aged man, who cannot be named, had persistently abused one of his daughters over several years, having sex with her and committing burglary. There had been allegations he had also abused another daughter. A report said that he targeted girls who were readily accessible and whom he could control. He would then "groom" the child by instilling fear.

Having gained control, he would then have intercourse with the children, the judge said. It was feared that he had also abused other children, who had been having problems with their parents, after posing as an "understanding father figure".

Specialists who treated him said that the child abuse was linked to anger. He had been described as an "anger rapist" and was said to need extended therapy.

The man sat in court with his wife as the judge said: "All my efforts to balance the risk of harm against the benefits of healing therapy are now rendered totally useless by virtue of the refusal or inability, or both, of the local authority to provide the course of treatment which they recognise to be necessary."

"Their solution is to order the father from the matrimonial home and leave the care of the children in the hands of the mother, who is weak, who has no capacity to protect the children, who is probably still totally under the control of her husband and who, standing by herself, gives me grave cause for anxiety." The judge said that he therefore had to proceed on the basis that the help the family needed and wanted was denied by the local authority decision.

As he made the order, Mr Justice Ward said: "I make it loudly protesting that I regard it as most unfortunate that this court should be required in open court to complain that a lack of resources apparently prevents a local authority from protecting the children in its area who are in need. It is not part of the court's function to engage in political questions, and questions of resources and funding are political. I protest at having been drawn unwillingly into that arena."

"I protest most strongly that my order is likely to have serious consequences. This father will be angry at my order. He will be angry because he is ready to cooperate with the court and his readiness has been rejected by the court when, in fact, I wished him to be given every opportunity for co-operation. I am frustrated I cannot offer it."

The effect of the order is that I am required by the local authority to send out into the community a man who they accept, and I accept, poses a serious risk to young children. That he should be allowed in the community without this treatment being made available to him seems to me to be utterly incomprehensible. It seems moreover to be utterly irresponsible.

"It is no solace to me to sit here like Pontius Pilate, to wash my hands and go home. And so I make these orders and hope and pray that this father, whom I was prepared to trust, will carry away from the court my regret at the conclusion I have to reach."

Shop share scheme keeps village alive

■ A nationwide survey has found services in rural areas are declining. But some communities are finding ways to preserve village life

BY KATE ALDERSON

VILLAGERS at Halstock, northwest Dorset, saved their shop from closure when they bought shares in it, and so preserved a much-needed service and meeting point for residents.

Dorset was listed as a region with one of the lowest levels of rural services in England in the Rural Development Commission's survey on the declining provision of rural services, published yesterday.

Eighteen months ago the shop was under threat and an emergency meeting was called by Derek Smith, a retired farmer, and a rescue plan was devised.

Sixty of the village's 350 residents agreed to put up £15,000 of capital by buying 300 debenture certificates worth £50 each in a newly-formed company, Halstock Village Shop Ltd.

The shop has been open a year and also operates as a post office. Brenda Elson, the shop's manager, said: "It's going very well; it was an excellent idea."

"A lot of old people don't want to, or can't, travel out of the village and they can get their pensions here. It serves as a focal point in the village. People come in and chat and meet — they really rely on the shop."

As a result of this success, Mr Smith, and six other members, have established the Village Retail Services Association, which will be fully operational next January, to provide advice and help to villagers who wish to save their services.

It will act as a pressure group, urging the government to reconsider the impact of the uniform business rate on village shops.

Services at Bindley Heath, Surrey, have been declining for many years, and the situation is likely to worsen.

The village nestles in the commuter belt close to the

A22 and the M25 and no longer has a post office, village shop or newsagent. Next year it will lose the school, which has 33 pupils aged five to seven.

The bus service is virtually non-existent and life without a car is regarded by residents as impossible.

The nearest doctor is four miles away, and the nearest hospital casualty department is a 30-minute drive.

One resident said: "The services are terrible, which is hard to believe because we are considered to be in a suburban area."

St Agnes, a coastal village in Cornwall, is proud of its services which include ten chapels, 19 food shops and a goat society.

Cornwall County Council says that its relatively high provision of services could be due partly to the summer influx of visitors. However, this appears to have only disproportionately increased the number of food and drink outlets.

The village is well-endowed with shops, has six post offices, five petrol stations, 13 telephone boxes and 13 pubs.

Residents say that the bus service could be better, as there is no longer a railway service to and from the village.

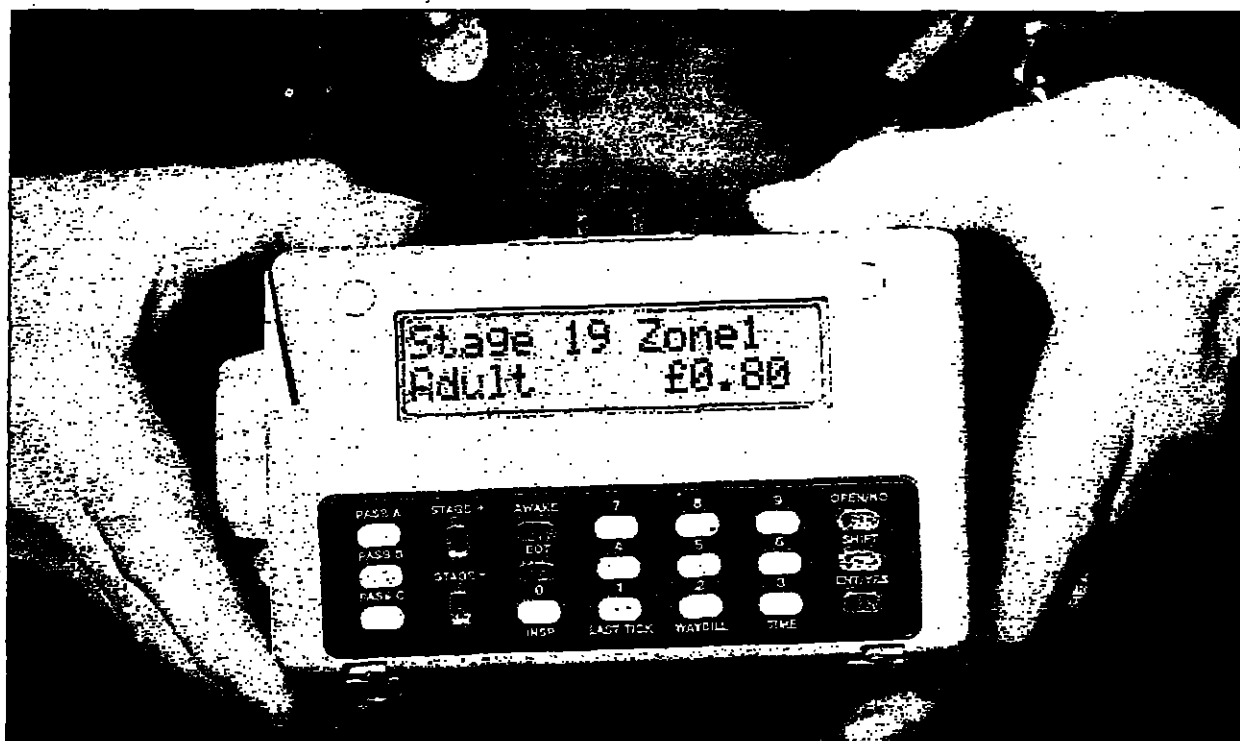
Chris O'Brien, landlord of the Railway Inn, said: "We are a self-sufficient community; we've got all the shops we need, a great doctor with a brand new surgery."

"We have great walks, great views and I've got a pair of Tommy Cooper's shoes hanging in my pub. What more could a village ask for?"

The village has eight homes for the elderly, one home for people with mental or physical difficulties and a pharmacy.

Rubbish is collected once a week, the bank is open part-time and milk and newspapers are delivered daily.

High-tech machine gives bus conductors ticket to electronic age



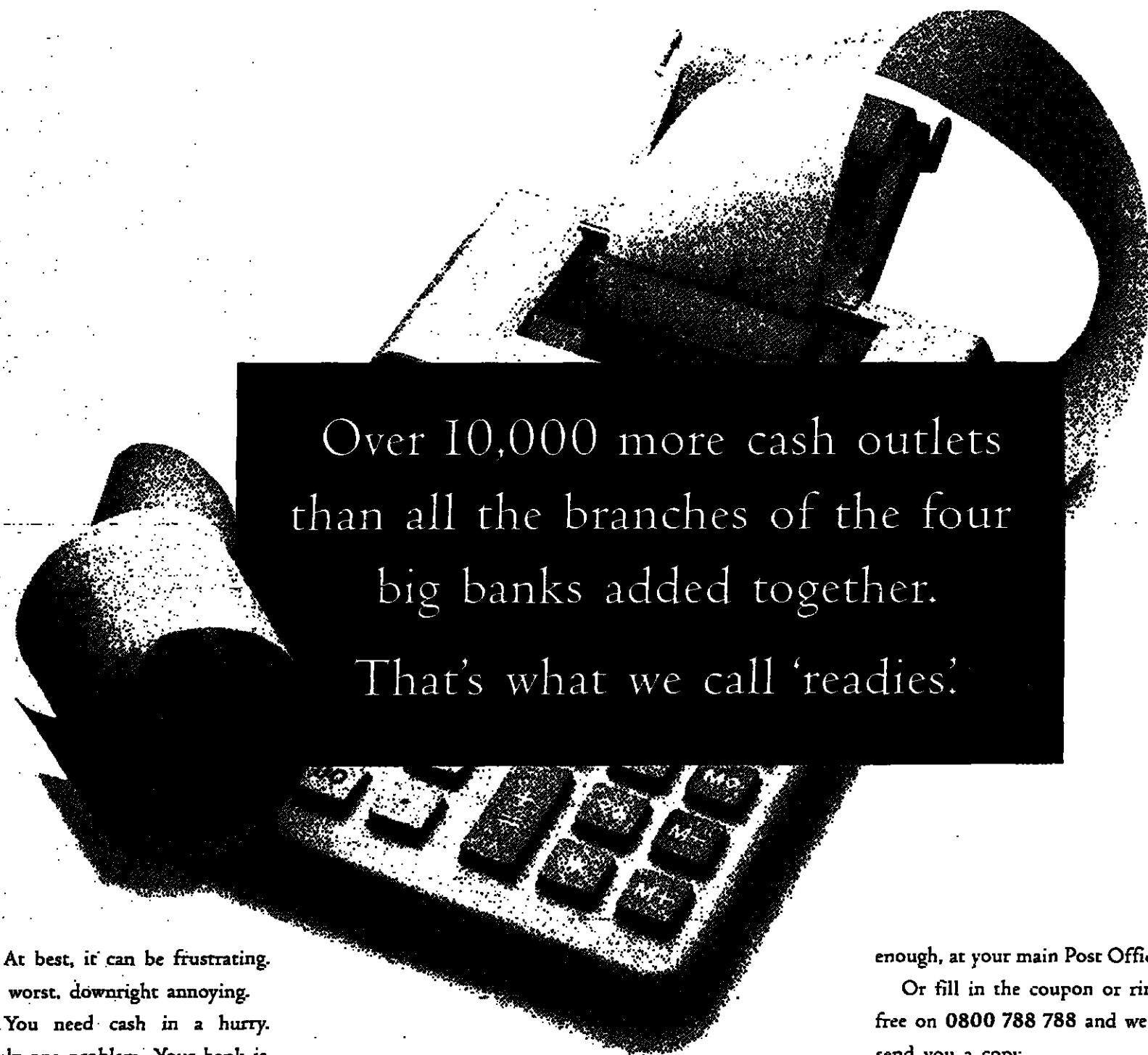
Fast track: London buses today launches the Clipper, above left, a lightweight portable electronic ticket machine specially designed for the capital's bus conductors. The company says the machine incorporates a unique battery management sys-

tem and a personal alarm to use in case of assault. Trials will start at Tottenham bus garage soon and, once completed, the machine will be introduced on all London Buses' 550 Routemasters, which run on 23 routes, mostly in central London. If

successful the electronic machine will succeed the ticket board and bell-punch, being used by the conductor above, in 1947, and the Gibson machine, the portable cash register-cum-ticket printer which has been used on London's red

buses for the past 40 years. When the bell punch system was introduced in 1891, apparently as much for selling advertising space on the ticket backs as for keeping a more accurate tally of conductors' takings, bus crews went on strike for

a week, despite having been given a wage increase in anticipation of the change. The Clipper, it is claimed, will make life easier for the conductors, and is expected to provide more accurate data about passenger journeys.



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Support for devolution gathers pace in ailing northern Italy



Mussolini: cheated of a chance to celebrate

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN VERONA

UMBERTO Bossi, the Lombardy League devolutionist leader in north Italy, failed yesterday to carry out a threat to stage a new March on Rome. It was the 70th anniversary of the 1922 march by Mussolini that ushered in his Fascist regime after King Victor Emmanuel III asked him to form a government.

Signor Bossi's aides are confident that they can gain through the ballot box what the dictator achieved with a show of force. Earlier this week Signor Bossi was quoted as saying: "If we were to march on Rome, occupying one after the other the prefectures of the north, the people would defend us." His remarks seemed to confirm the view of political experts, who believe he is appealing to the

same kind of disgruntled voter as the neo-Fascists of the Italian Social Movement, even though he denies sharing their authoritarian philosophy.

In the event, even the neo-Fascists were cheated of planned celebrations of the march. Nello Polese, the mayor of Naples, at the last-minute revoked permission for Alessandra Mussolini, the glamorous granddaughter of Il Duce and niece of Sophia Loren, to hold a commemorative meeting in the city council building. Two neo-Fascist councillors occupied the mayor's office for several hours in protest.

Signor Bossi, for his part, was embroiled in another scandal after the youth movement of his umbrella League

■ The antics of neo-Fascists and northern separatists sometimes resemble comic opera, but both groups are tapping the same wellsprings of discontent as Il Duce

of the North in Trentino province put up posters inviting southern immigrants to go home. Signor Bossi has always denied fostering racist attitudes to the impoverished south. Amid growing outrage in all of Italy, he was obliged to denounce the posters as an unauthorised initiative that was "absolutely contrary to the federalist principles of the League of the North".

Political experts agree that the northern leagues are poised for more electoral victories on their federalist platform. Giuliano Amato, the prime minister, has accused

them of undermining "the idea that we are all Italians". In Verona the Lombardy League and its sister Lega Veneta have stepped up a symbolic campaign against the Socialist-led government by issuing mock passports "against corruption, Mafia, party patronage and bribery". They have also minted mock coins in Brescia, printed Monopoly-style banknotes in Verona, and postage stamps in Emilia-Romagna.

Some of the most fervent devolutionists are in Verona, where the Lega Veneta has its headquarters. But Marilena

Marin, a former school teacher, a regional councillor since 1990 and now the Lega's secretary, denies that the printing of 100,000 passports of the "Federal Republic of the North", is tantamount to encouraging secession.

"The passport above all is symbolic of the desires of the people of the north to belong to Europe," she said, adding: "Old and young people alike are queuing up for these passports and coins — they are proud to join this movement." Signor Bossi is campaigning for weather-vane local elections scheduled for December in Monza, Varese and Mira. The four-party coalition government tried to postpone the polls on a technicality, but parliament refused to accept delay after the league staged demonstrations in Milan.

A *Panorama* magazine opinion poll this month found that the popularity of the leagues is spreading. They would win first place in Bologna if elections were held there now, and would capture 28 per cent of votes in Venice.

Luigi Rossi, a league MP for Bologna, dismisses interior ministry reports that former left-wing terrorist sympathisers and out-of-control secret service agents have infiltrated the leagues with a view to destabilising Italy. "The league is an ultra-democratic political movement. We are against violence," he said. He added that the league was faithful to the relevant article of the Italian constitution, which precludes secession but, he believes, paves the way for federalism. "Italy is one, indivisible, and promotes local autonomy."

Last month the leagues scored a dazzling victory in elections for Mantua province, garnering some 39 per cent of the vote and first place. During the election campaign, Signor Bossi courted neo-Fascist voters, accusing the Italian Social Movement of depending overly on the charms of Signora Mussolini, "with her breasts blowing in the wind".

Yeltsin bans private army to safeguard reform policy

FROM ANNE MCELVOY IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin yesterday ordered the dissolution of a 5,000-strong armed guard controlled by his conservative rival, Russian Khasbulatov, the parliamentary chairman. The unit is considered to be the private army of anti-reform figures in the White House.

The decision, which comes a day after his move to outlaw the right-wing National Salvation Front, is intended by the beleaguered Russian leader to show that he is determined to fight off hostile factions, and to be seen to be regaining control of events before the Congress of People's Deputies decides the fate of his government in December. Mr Yeltsin's spokesman said that the guards were not under the control of either the president or the interior ministry and were therefore illegal.

Dubbed the "cardinal's guard", after the ill-disciplined protectors of Cardinal Richelieu in Alexandre Dumas's *The Three Musketeers*, the force has long attracted the suspicion of liberal deputies who view its powers and patrolling rights over key buildings in Moscow, including the state bank, as a potential threat in any prospective right-wing coup.

Last week, one of the guards died in a shootout with Moscow police. Mr Yeltsin's patience appears to have snapped on Monday when the guard appeared at the headquarters of the *Izvestia* newspaper, the object of a tug of war between reformist politicians and journalists who claim they have ownership rights as heirs to the Soviet parliament whose propaganda organ it once was.

The decision to ban the guard is a declaration of political war by Mr Yeltsin on his maverick parliamentary chairman, Mr Khasbulatov, who has shown an infinite capacity for causing trouble and his office runs like a parliament within a parliament, making life as difficult for the Yeltsin government as possible.

The outlawing of both the guard and the National Salvation Front, at least in the short term, deals with the noisy pressures on Mr Yeltsin from the extreme right. These are the forces of chaos familiar from Russian pre-revolutionary history with its rebellions and plots, and they are motivated solely by an appetite for power.

History and its terminology play a large part in today's politics. The National Salvation Front took its name from two organisations of right-wing officers, inspired by General Lavr Kornilov who assumed dictatorial powers during 1917 in an attempt to save off the collapse of the armed forces and the provisional government. It is clearly intended to appeal to disenchanted military men, whose pride is damaged by the collapse of the Soviet empire.

The title was resuscitated by hardline communists in the Baltics in the early 1980s and today's front is an unappealing rainbow coalition of agitators. Never can the extreme left and extreme right have linked arms with such sudden comradeship as in post-communist Russia.

Mr Yeltsin can expect a flippant to his popularity at home from his decisiveness in the last two days. Less certain, however, is how he will proceed against the more complex, gradualist threat from the so-called centrists, underpinned by the vast military-industrial complex.

The centrists, operating under the umbrella title of Civic Union, are controlled by Arkadi Volsky, the head of the industrial union and Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoi. They represent the acceptable face of revisionism, arguing that the radical reform programme imported from the West will result in damaging the country's industrial base, military capacity and international status. The more Mr Yeltsin comes under pressure from the extreme right, the more feasible an option the acceptable right becomes.

Some Western diplomats are already preparing for Mr Yeltsin to enter into a pact with the centrists in order to save himself and stabilise the country. One European source said yesterday: "The military-industrial complex remains the backbone of the country and there may soon be no option for the Yeltsin government but to bring in its representatives."

Once in government, the centrists would push for huge investment in industry, effectively supplanting the current policy of monetary control. They would push for a more assertive role for Russia internationally and increase arms sales. Reform of sorts could continue but its resemblance to the free market transformation would be remote.



Fate unknown: Anastasia, the last Tsar's daughter, has kept scholars guessing

Pretender's hair may resolve the enigma of Anastasia

FROM ALEX ANDERSON AND BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

BRITISH and Russian scientists will this week receive samples of hair from the late Anna Anderson, which should establish for certain whether she really was Anastasia, daughter of Russia's last tsar.

The scientists, working at a Home Office laboratory in Aldermaston, have since mid-September been studying nine skeletons, presumed to be those of the Russian royal family and their servants, that were exhumed near Yekaterinburg in the Ural mountains 15 months ago.

The enquiry is being broadened to cover Anderson, a mysterious figure who appeared in Berlin in 1920 and died in America in 1948. Her inclusion was decided by Nigel McCrery, the British television producer who arranged for the bones to be brought to England.

The results, due next spring, are awaited with fascination and anxiety by Europe's royal houses, by the quarrelsome but growing monarchist movement in Russia and by historians who have devoted entire careers to researching conflicting theories about the tsar's fate.

Professor Peter Gill and Dr Pavel Ivanov, a Russian mo-



Anderson: claims prompted litigation

lecular biologist, will compare genetic material from both the exhumed bones and Anderson's locks with samples of hair provided by living members of the family.

If the bones prove genuine, that will vindicate the work of Geli Ryabov, a Soviet writer who secretly uncovered the mass grave in 1979 after studying the testimony of Yakov Yurovsky, a Bolshevik officer who described leading the massacre and burial of the family in July 1918.

The remains will then receive ceremonial reburial in the presence of the current pretender to the throne, Maria Vladimirovna. If Anna

Anderson's claim is upheld, that will provide confirmation of a separate line of enquiry which challenges the Yurovsky account and holds that some or all of the imperial family's female members were being held captive in the city of Perm until at least September 1918.

This view was detailed by the British journalists, Anthony Summers and Tom Mangold, in their 1976 best-seller *The File on the Tsar*, which was based on previously secret evidence collected by a White Russian investigator in 1919 and later suppressed by his own colleagues.

Anderson's claim prompted decades of litigation and aroused passionate emotions on both sides, with the Romanov family itself divided. Kiril Vladimirovich, who in 1924 proclaimed himself tsar in exile, opposed his purported relative, while his brother Andrei — one of the few Romanovs to meet the claimant — pronounced after spending two days with her: "I must state in all conscience that this is none other than my niece Anastasia".

Alex Anderson, a British historian, is not related to Anna Anderson

Paris Aids case official goes to jail

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN PARIS

MICHEL Garretta, the senior health official convicted of allowing the distribution of HIV-infected blood, was jailed for four years yesterday as opposition politicians and victims' groups demanded the trial of former ministers for their part in the scandal.

A convoy of police cars greeted Dr Garretta, the former head of the state transfusion service, as he arrived from the US. "I am being made to pay for collective cowardice," he said. "I made errors but I did not make them alone."

The government at the time, he insisted, shared in the decision in 1985 to allow the distribution of up to 1,500 haemophiliacs of blood contaminated with the AIDS virus until stocks ran out.

The opposition-dominated senate prepared yesterday to decide whether to start impeachment proceedings against Laurent Fabius, the former prime minister, and two other ministers.

Photograph, page 24

CDU spells out need for austerity

FROM PATRICK MOSER IN BONN

HELMUT Kohl's Christian Democratic Union ended a three-day congress yesterday with a message to Germans: the party is over and the time of reckoning has come.

The tough austerity message was perfectly clear, even if many politicians, including some in the CDU, believe it should have been delivered two years ago, immediately after the celebrations on the night of German unification.

In a motion adopted almost unanimously by the 1,000 delegates at the Düsseldorf congress, the CDU said that Germans should pay more taxes and draw less social benefit. The government must limit its spending strictly and projects in western Germany will have to be abandoned in favour of more urgent work in eastern Germany, according to the motion.

One of the few proposed measures voters are likely to welcome is a call for the streamlining of bureaucracy.

Leading article, page 21

Bosnia fighting preludes arrival of UK troops

FROM TERRY LEONARD IN SARAJEVO AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

MUSLIM-LED government troops and Serb rebels fought fierce battles in the northern town of Jajce, yesterday, as 80 British troops prepared to arrive in the Croatian port of Split today.

The Britons will comprise a 30-strong advance guard from the Cheshire Regiment's 1st battalion, including their commander, Lieutenant Colonel Bob Stewart, and 50 members of Brigade Headquarters. The men will arrive on two planes from RAF Gutersloh in Germany.

Malcolm Rifkind, the British defence secretary, told the troops they would be doing a crucial job to save lives. "It takes you into a war zone," he said at the British army base in Fallingbommel near Hannover. "We are conscious of the risk, but the risk is kept to an

absolute minimum. We accept your absolute right to defend yourselves."

In Bosnia, Serb militias continued their campaign to widen a northern corridor linking Serbia with Serb lands in Bosnia and Croatia.

In a further attempt to mediate the Yugoslav crisis, Lord Owen of the European Community and Cyrus Vance, the United Nations special envoy, arrived in Belgrade yesterday, capital of the rump Yugoslavia, for talks with leaders. Shortly after they arrived, a UN relief convoy carrying 207 tons of food departed for Sarajevo after a day's delay due to security concerns along the route.

In Geneva, the key mediation venue of the Yugoslav crisis, officials proposed dividing Bosnia into seven to ten



autonomous provinces, but leaving it as a single, independent state. A draft constitution rejects demands by Bosnian Serbs and Croats for a formal ethnic division of the country, and refuses to condone "ethnic cleansing".

Seemingly offering a compromise, the draft says provincial borders should reflect ethnic factors but also geography and traditional economic links inside Bosnia. Each area would have a "considerable

majority" of one ethnic group but with "significant" minorities.

Muslim-led government forces and ethnic Croatian militias, meanwhile, were withdrawing unconditionally from Prozor, about 30 miles west of Sarajevo, as agreed on Tuesday, Bosnian radio reported.

Both Serbs and Muslims reported heavy fighting around Jajce, 60 miles northwest of Sarajevo, but gave differing accounts. The Serb militias claimed to have "liberated" Jajce on Tuesday, but the Bosnian army denied the report and said its forces had actually moved their lines forward about 200 yards toward Gola Planina. It claimed the Serbs were bringing fresh reinforcements by helicopter from Banja Luka to the north, which would be in violation of a UN resolution grounding Serb aircraft in Bosnia. (AP)



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The man who would be king: three stages in the life of Bill Clinton, the Democrat who hopes next week to wrest the White House from President Bush — as a toddler in 1947, as a young man, and with his wife, Hillary, in 1979

Bush trumpets boost in the economy but fails to rattle Clinton

FROM JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush and Governor Clinton duelled yesterday in separate television appearances and out on the campaign trail over the state of the economy as Ross Perot completed plans for the costliest television advertising blitz in US political history.

As the candidates embarked on the final five days of the campaign, and tried to sharpen their election messages, opinion polls carried mixed signals for all three. One survey for *USA Today* suggests that the race between Mr Bush and his Democrat rival is tightening and gave Mr Clinton just a 6 per cent lead over the president. But a poll for *The Los Angeles Times*

Can money buy the American presidency? Ross Perot is spending \$5 million a day to find out

indicates that Mr Clinton is ahead by 10 per cent and that Mr Perot, trailing in third place, has slipped to 18 per cent.

Armed with figures showing that America's gross domestic product has increased by 2.7 per cent since July, an emboldened Mr Bush launched a forceful attack on what

has been Governor Clinton's strongest campaigning ground, the economy. He dismissed the Democrat's charge that Republican stewardship of the economy has led the US into disaster.

"Our economy is doing better than the world economy," the president said on television. Mr Bush virtually declared that the recession in the US is over and he said the spurt in the growth "pulls the rug out from under Mr Clinton, who's telling everybody how horrible everything is."

Mr Clinton later responded: "You can't evaluate anyone on one three-month blip. The big issue is to look at the trends of the last 10 years."

Mr Perot, still buffeted by press criticism over his unsubstantiated allegations that the Republicans planned to mount a smear campaign against him, continued to cause his rivals concern yesterday with his plans to outspend them in the run-up to polling day. The Dallas billionaire has bought seven half-hour network slots and has produced nine 30-second and 60-second commercials to carry his populist message. He may spend \$5 million a day until polling day in his effort to overcome the wound he inflicted on himself with his bizarre allegations of Republican dirty tricks.

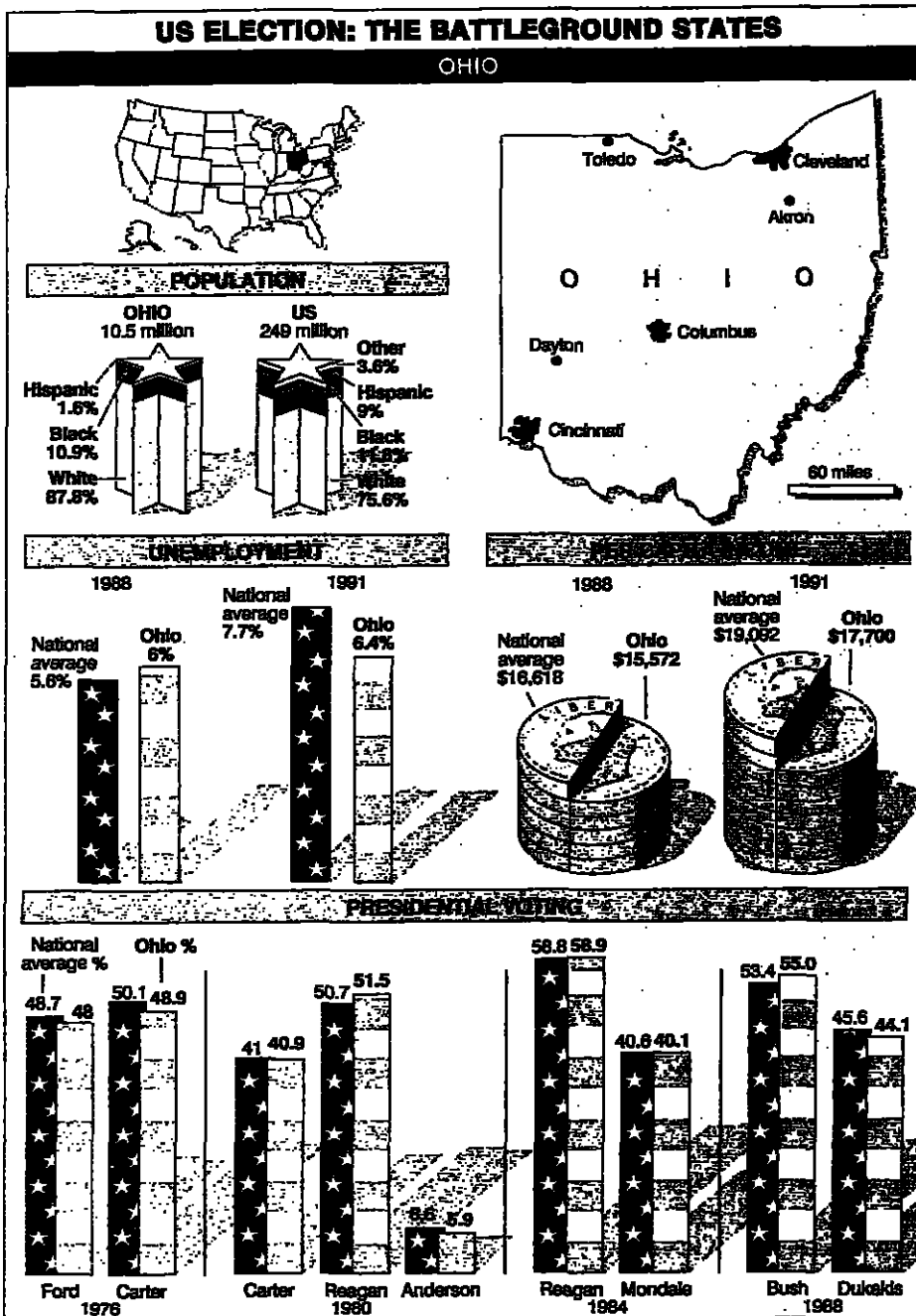
In all, Mr Perot has spent more than \$37 million in the last 26 days, nearly all on television. It is estimated that he will by the end of the election have forked out \$45 million at least on commercials, nearly \$10 million more than the Bush or Clinton campaigns. The last serious independent challenger for the presidency, John Anderson, spent just \$1.5 million on advertising in 1980.

Clinton aides are clearly delighted at the damage Mr Perot wrought on himself by his outburst. The signs are that the late surge in the election Mr Perot was enjoying at Mr Clinton's expense has now come to a halt and Democrat strategists argue that polls will start showing the billionaire dropping back.

Both Bush and Clinton camps seem to have settled on their own endgame advertising strategy. Both sides have opted for a mixture of negative and positive commercials. Some Republican advertisements highlight the president's achievements and abilities and others impugn Mr Clinton's character and criticise his record as the governor of Arkansas.

Brussels: The European Commission admitted yesterday there was no immediate prospect of a meeting between Ray MacSharry, the farm commissioner and Ed Madigan, the US agriculture secretary (Tom Walker writes).

The commission had predicted the previous day that a breakthrough in the transatlantic dispute over agricultural subsidies was still possible before the American presidential elections next Tuesday.



Ohio becomes the front line in a last-ditch offensive

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN DAYTON, OHIO

THESE ARE the dying days of a campaign that the pollsters say is doomed, but George Bush has not surrendered yet. At 68, his life has become a frantic blur of airports, motorcades and rallies of the faithful. He has suffered the biggest plunge in popularity of any US president and his press is singularly awful. But still he sounds like a man hungry for victory and convinced he will get it.

"We're fired up," he told the thousands crammed into an outdoor concert arena here on Tuesday evening. "We're bubbling."

These rallies are staged to generate nightly television pictures of wildly enthusiastic crowds. Clinton supporters are ejected. The throngs are whipped up by bands and cheerleaders and warm-up speakers promising the most spectacular upset in election history.

In Dayton, he flaunted new figures showing better-than-expected economic growth. Bill Clinton, Al Gore and the media talk show people would not know good news if it hit them in the face," he declared, spitting out his words and pounding the podium with his fist. His tax-and-spend opponents talked of "change, change, change, but that's all you'll have left when they are through," he thundered. Mr Gore was the "ozone man" whose demand for more fuel-efficient cars

would put 20,000 Ohio car workers out of work.

Mr Bush skipped rapidly over his own agenda, the quicker to reach his final assault on the Arkansas governor: "There's a pattern of deception... you can't lead by misleading. You can't turn the White House into a waffle house."

It was a fiery speech and needed to be. The single most pertinent fact about Ohio is that no Republican has even won the White House without it. With the other key Midwestern states of Illinois and Michigan leaning firmly towards the Democrats, Mr Bush has to take Ohio with its 21 electoral college votes.

The president trails by about nine points, but that gap has narrowed significantly thanks to Ross Perot's late surge and he still has a fighting chance. He and Vice-President Dan Quayle have visited Ohio more than any other state. Mr Bush is devoting two days of the campaign's final week to it. The state that produced Thomas Edison and the Wright brothers is more a war-zone than a battleground, split down the middle by the rival armies.

Mr Clinton's stronghold is the heavily-unionised north and east, where 40 per cent of Ohioans live in Appalachian coal-mining communities on the West Virginia border, in the steelmill towns of Youngstown and Warren, and in the

once-great industrial cities of Akron, Toledo and Cleveland. In Akron last weekend, he attracted 20,000 to a rally in a giant hangar.

The Republican bastions are the picture-postcard towns of the agrarian south and centre, the relatively prosperous white-collar cities of Columbus and Cincinnati, and the northwest corridor that includes the high-tech Honda headquarters in Marysville.

Turn-out is the key to victory, and Mr Bush is doing his utmost to galvanise his supporters. He started his first Trumanesque train tour here last month, stopping at up-temper little towns as he travelled up that northwest corridor. He successfully leant on the emir of Kuwait to order American tanks made in Michigan and Ohio, not British ones. During one visit to Columbus he spotted some Clinton supporters waving signs but, unusually, not shouting abuse. He scribbled them a note: "To the Clinton-Gore folks: You guys did it right for your team, but polite and in the best tradition of US politics. Don't work too hard against me! Thanks, George Bush."

Landslide looms as rock-solid right turns to the left

With five days to go to the US election, Robert Worcester concludes that Bill Clinton will inherit the White House unless the electorate stands on its head

TODAY is wobbly Thursday in the United States presidential election campaign.

With only five days to go in what is the world's longest running political campaign, we have seen the wearing down of the so-called "seven dwarfs" in the Democratic primaries from New Hampshire snows to California's sunshine, with Bill Clinton, the Arkansas governor, outlasting the pack. We have seen President Bush's popularity tumble as the public's attention shifted from his handling of foreign policy to domestic issues in a time of economic uncertainty and widespread deprivation.

We have also seen the remarkable spectacle of the entry, departure and re-entry of the maverick Ross Perot as an independent candidate without party, without policy (some would say) but with plenty of money to spend in a country where money can buy anything. He is reported to be spending over \$8 million in the final week on advertising his candidacy.

The immediate impact of the third and final presidential debate was minimal, with the three panel studies showing Mr Clinton holding steady and Mr Perot up a bit at the expense of Mr Bush. In the few days that followed, there have been another 14 national polls, tracking surveys, rolling polls and snapshots indicating that Mr Perot is continuing to gain on Mr Clinton and that the president has bottomed out and is on the climb.

Of the latest polls reported, with fieldwork ending on Monday, Mr Perot is still holding at 20 per cent or above, despite pundits' comments that his "Bush investigation" allegations backfired. Perhaps what is holding his share up is that he is holding his share up is that when Gallup asked for CNN-

USA Today which of the contenders could best handle the economy, Mr Perot, with 38 per cent, led Mr Clinton's 33 per cent and the president's 23 per cent. It seems that the "AAB" (Anybody But Bush) share of the popular vote is swinging between the two contenders.

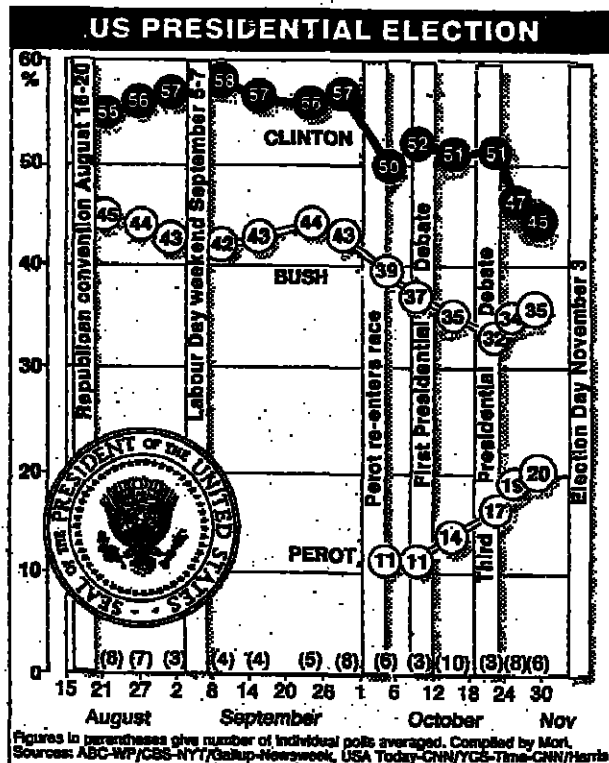
That said, unless there is an explosion in the American electorate between now and Tuesday, Mr Clinton will slide into election day with enough states in his camp to assure him of the White House.

Of course, it is not the popular vote that elects a president any more than a British prime minister, for the American system elects its presidents state by state, as we elect our parliaments constituency by constituency.

The electoral college votes in each state are governed by the popular vote in that state, so that if say Texas should vote as the latest poll there indicates (Mr Clinton 44 per cent, Mr Bush, 37 per cent, then all 32 Texas electoral college votes will go to Mr Clinton. It takes 270 electoral votes to win; on Monday, Mr Clinton had solid leads in 32 states with 387 votes and that did not include Texas. Mr Bush leads in only five states with 26 votes.

Other states leaning to Mr Clinton at the moment include normally rock-solid Republican states such as Arizona, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas and South Dakota. When these conservative strongholds are leaning towards the Democratic contender, a landslide is in the making.

Robert M. Worcester is chairman of Mori and visiting professor of government at the LSE. His analyses are compiled with the assistance of AEP's American Enterprise magazine.



Jazz-loving Mom boosts candidate

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

Mother may be a boy's best friend, but for Bill Clinton, the Democratic presidential candidate, she is turning out also to be one of his best campaign assets. Ever since *The Washington Post* revealed that State Department officials had searched through not only the passport files of Mr Clinton but those of Virginia Kelley, 69, his mother, she has become a central figure in campaign rhetoric.

In a speech in Florida on Monday, the Arkansas governor painted a graphic picture of rapacious government agents cruelly violating her right to privacy. "After the government offices have closed down," he said, "these three political appointees, fairly senior officials in their expensive suits, sneak into this little room and bang around with each other for four hours looking for dirty information on my mother."

The crowd boos happily, for there is nothing that an American electorate despises more than an attack on the great American institution of motherhood, unless it is an attack on small animals. When this is carried out by men in suits who

bang around with each other, the implication is devastating, despite Mrs Kelley being four times married and an habitual clanking car-rings and all of jazz night clubs and the races.

Purveyors of that essential form of American political dialogue, the bumper-sticker, have come up with an intriguing variation on Barry Goldwater's 1964 slogan: "In your heart you know I'm right". In a reference to the faintly dubious mental state of Ross Perot, the independent candidate, Washington is currently awash with bumper stickers reading: "In your heart you know he's nuts".

That conclusion is partially refuted by an item in yesterday's *New York Daily News* under the headline "Perot passes the shrink test". In the article psychiatrists gave their diagnoses of the Texan billionaire in the wake of his latest accusations of Republican dirty tricks against him.

"Ross Perot is not nuts, but he does act like a big baby sometimes and he's prone to your basic rich guy's weird conspiracy theories," the *News* said.

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Britain acts swiftly to reassure Hong Kong over 1995 elections

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING AND JAMES PRINGLE IN HONG KONG

BRITAIN and China simultaneously released transcripts yesterday of secret correspondence concerning Hong Kong which is said by Peking to prove that proposals by the governor, Chris Patten, for the 1995 elections break a promise by Britain to limit democracy in the territory.

Britain made the first move to release the letters after a challenge from Peking and, a British official said, "to set the record straight".

Publication of the letters, which appear to support British claims that there was no secret deal, has not ended the differences between Peking and Mr Patten. Both sides are now claiming vindication.

The letters, dated early 1990, show Britain struggling to set up a limited democracy in Hong Kong in the face of determined opposition from an inflexible Peking. They record protracted haggling by Douglas Hurd and Chinese negotiators.

A statement released in London and by the British embassy in Peking said: "These documents show that there was no agreement or understanding between the UK and China in the electoral arrangements for 1995 in Hong Kong. We made clear repeatedly our dissatisfaction at the Chinese proposals for the number of directly-elected seats in the Legislative Council; and that we intended to continue to press for a faster rate of increase in the number of these seats."

The Foreign Office said it informed Peking on Tuesday of its intention to publish the exchanges. It said they made clear that no agreement was reached on the arrangement for the 1995 elections; and China's subsequent soundings in Hong Kong showed that the Chinese side had not reached any firm view, nor did it consider itself bound by any earlier agreement.

The unprecedented swift release of all the letters dealing with the disputed elections is

Letters show there were no secret deals, but Chris Patten remains eyeball to eyeball with Peking

clearly intended to reassure Hong Kong that Mr Patten acted in good faith in trying to extend democracy in the territory. China's official news agency also published the eight documents and claimed they had been proved right. "Chris Patten made unilateral major changes in the current political system that run counter to the understanding reached by the Chinese and British sides through diplomatic consultations," it said.

By last night, however, Peking had failed to identify the portion of the correspondence which it claims constitutes a deal with China. The move comes at the lowest ebb in negotiations on Hong Kong since the signing of the Joint Declaration in 1984, in which Britain agreed to hand the territory to China in 1997.

Mr Patten said yesterday that the letter made it abundantly clear there was no secret deal. "We put forward a series of five proposals on which the 1995 elections would be based," Mike Hanson, Mr Patten's spokesman, said. "The Chinese side accepted them. However, when it came to promulgating the Basic Law, these principles were not there."

Under Hong Kong's current system of limited democracy, only 18 out of the Legislative Council's 60 members were popularly elected in last year's first direct polling. That will rise to 20 in 1995.

The documents appear to show that at no point did Britain commit itself to limiting democratisation in Hong Kong before 1997 to the level envisaged by the Chinese side in the period after 1997. In

the letters, Mr Hurd states that Britain is eager for a smooth transfer of political system in 1997, but qualifies this with provisos which appear never to have been satisfied by the Chinese.

Mr Hurd specifically exempted Britain from committing itself to only 20 of 60 directly-elected seats in the Hong Kong legislature in 1995. He wrote on February 12, 1990: "I confine myself to saying, as far as 1995 is concerned, that there will be no fewer than 20 seats in the legislature."

On the election committee, which will elect ten seats in the post-1997 Legislative Council, Mr Hurd wrote in the same letter: "I agree in principle with the arrangements which you propose for an Election Committee, which could be established in 1995. The precise details of how this should be done can be discussed between our two sides in due course."



Flight victim: General Zia's death in a plane crash has yet to be explained satisfactorily

Sabotage claim gains ground in enquiry into Zia's death

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

EXPERT witnesses have told a judicial enquiry into the plane crash that killed General Zia ul-Haq, the former Pakistani president, that the aircraft was brought down by two explosions on board.

The death of the dictator in 1988 has never been fully explained. The Russians, Israelis, Indians, Americans and fellow army officers have all come under suspicion, but it has never been proved that the crash was anything more than an accident. The latest investigation tips the scales in favour of the sabotage theory.

Ijaz ul-Haq, the late president's son, has campaigned for years for an independent, high-level enquiry into the crash. He has always said that his father was murdered, although he has never speculated about the possible murderers.

The launch of the judicial investigation on government orders several weeks ago was something of a personal triumph for Mr Ijaz after repeated half-hearted official investigations failed to produce any conclusive findings.

Earlier this year, the interior ministry conducted an internal enquiry, which drew no

definite conclusions. The latest investigation was told by K. A. Shoaib, an electronics expert, that traces of antimony, phosphorus, potassium and sulphur in the wreckage suggested that detonation devices had been used in the cockpit and at the aft door of the C-130 transport plane. He said that the devices could have led to explosions or fires.

Group captain Shahid Hamid, an explosives expert, told the three-man judicial commission that, as a result of simulation exercises he had carried out, he believed there were at least two detonation devices in the plane, one in the cockpit and one at the rear. They would have led to blasts or fires.

He was giving evidence after the commission ordered him to inspect the plane's damaged aft door to determine whether it was hit by a missile from outside, damaged by an explosion from the inside or damaged in the crash. His findings will reinforce the generally held suspicions that the plane was sabotaged.

The crash also killed several senior army officers as well as Arnold Raphael, the United

States ambassador to Islamabad. During her years as prime minister, Benazir Bhutto never showed much determination to establish who might have killed the man who hanged her father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the former prime minister, in 1979.

Pressure from President Zia's family and sympathisers for a full enquiry into the crash, has increased steadily since Miss Bhutto was dismissed from office in 1990.

General Zia ruled from 1977 until his death. In the elections that followed, Miss Bhutto received an overwhelming mandate, largely by invoking images of her father and describing him as a martyr for democracy. Relations between her and the army have always been tense. The military engineered her dismissal from office two years ago on the ground that her administration was incompetent and corrupt.

Most observers suspect, however, that the real reason was that she had tried to trim the army's power. The military continues to view her with disdain and is rumoured to be determined to keep her from returning to power.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Egypt gets tough with militants

Cairo: Egypt has launched a tough counter-offensive against Islamic militants with the reintroduction of military trials for those plotting to attack tourists, and the implementation of armed patrols in Upper Egypt where a British tourist was shot dead last week (Christopher Walker writes).

In Alexandria, 31 Muslim extremists from two Islamic groups will appear before a military court today on charges ranging from plotting the sabotage of tourist sites to the incitement of sectarian strife between Muslims and the Coptic Christian minority.

Faction splits

Tokyo: A struggle for control of the largest faction within Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party intensified when a rebel group broke away in protest against the establishment of Keizo Obuchi as faction leader. (Reuters)

Bar dropped

Ottawa: Canada's armed forces have scrapped all barriers against the recruitment and promotion of homosexuals and lesbians after the federal court ruled that the restrictions violated the constitution.

Dimitrov fights

Sofia: The Bulgarian government of Filip Dimitrov faced possible defeat in a rowdy session when deputies debated a confidence motion. It was alleged that Mr Dimitrov's closest adviser tried to sell arms to Macedonia.

Polis imminent

Nairobi: President Moi dissolved the Kenyan parliament in preparation for the first multiparty elections in 26 years, but he still named no date for elections. Six weeks notice must be given before voting can begin. (Reuters)

Dog lead

Orange, California: FBI agents have arrested two Colombians accused of smuggling cocaine that was chemically combined with glass fibre and moulded into dog kennels. Each kennel contained up to 15lb. (Reuters)



Sun Kyi: under house arrest since 1989

Burmese 'still being tortured'

BY JAMES LANDALE

WIDESPREAD human rights abuse continues in Burma despite the freeing of more than 500 political prisoners since April, according to an Amnesty International report published yesterday.

The human rights organisation believes that up to 1,600 people remain in prison, including students, monks, artists and children. It has evidence of 20 centres where prisoners are beaten, tortured with electric shock and deprived of food and sleep.

Although the state law and order restoration council abolished military tribunals last month, martial law is still in place. Amnesty said that "tens of thousands" had been forced by the army to serve as porters and labourers in war zones, many of whom were summarily killed later. More than 300,000 people have fled the country in the past 18 months.

Human rights violations in Burma are deep-rooted and thousands upon thousands have suffered, Amnesty said. "The pattern of abuse is entrenched throughout the country. It needs to be tackled urgently."

Any political opposition is quashed. Aung San Suu Kyi, the leader of the National League for Democracy and Nobel prize winner, has been under house arrest since July 1989.



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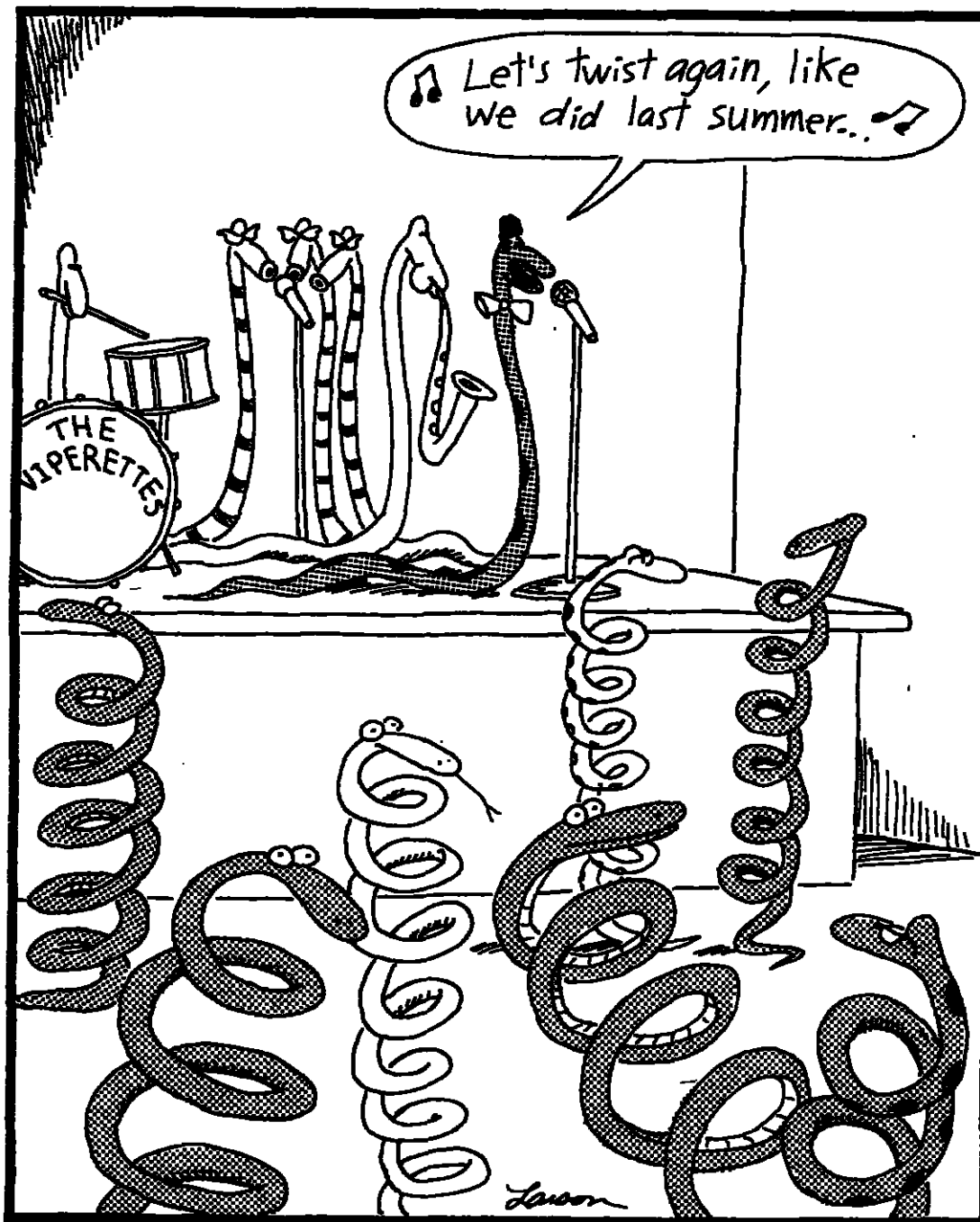
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The West's farmers are fighting the Gatt decision that would cut their subsidies. But, post-Maastricht, is their battle a losing one?

Growing anger down on the farm

Agriculture became the sticking point of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) when it was introduced into negotiations in 1986. Disagreement centres on how further to reduce subsidies paid to all farmers. France is the biggest obstacle to agreement, partly because of the political clout wielded by its farmers and partly because, as the EC's biggest food producer and the world's second biggest food exporter, after the United States, it has the most to lose from lowered, or limited, subsidies.

France feels that the reform of the EC Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) agreed last May and in effect from next year, which includes a 29 per cent cut over three years in the guaranteed prices paid to cereal farmers, is sacrifice enough.

In 30 years, the number of people farming French land has dropped from six to two million, but France still imports only 11 per cent of its food and agricultural products.

The French referendum on Maastricht cemented the shift in decision-making power from Paris to Brussels. In turn, that will transform the French farming sector from a big fish in a medium-size pond to a small, whining fish in a giant lake.

In the end, the farmers were betrayed by their own. France approved the Maastricht Treaty by 51 per cent to 49 per cent, but with crucial help from Brittany's farmers, who voted overwhelmingly in favour. The agricultural sector in every other region of France rejected the treaty.

Pierre Berégovoy, the French prime minister, knows that although the vital Maastricht battle in France is over, there will be further skirmishes with the nation's farmers. Unless President Mitterrand resigns between now and then, the first of these will be next March, the general election. The best that his Socialist Party can hope for is that the agricultural vote will split several ways, as now looks likely. Jacques Chirac's neo-Gaullist Rally for the Republic (RPR), along with the Union for French Democracy (UDF) led by the former president Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, will take back the farmers' votes that they lost to the Socialists last time, but M. Berégovoy's public defence of his farmers against the American infidels can do him no harm. His message seems to be that there are different types of cowboys, and the French ones are the ones in the white hats.

Britain has been critical of American negotiating tactics on GATT, but is concerned that if agreement cannot be reached before the American election on November 3 an administration under Bill Clinton might be even less ready to make concessions. British farmers are, however, better placed than most in Europe to weather the chilly economic winds blowing through agriculture. They are almost alone in having experienced a free market in food and are more streamlined as a result.

For nearly 100 years after the Corn Laws were abolished in the middle of the last century, Britain imported most of its food because it could be produced more cheaply abroad. Systematic protection, in the form of production quotas and guaranteed prices, was reintroduced only in the depression of the early 1930s.

During the second world war boosting food production became a matter of national survival. National support for farmers provided by the 1947 Agriculture Act was replaced by the even more generous subsidies available under the CAP after Britain joined the EC in 1973. British farming responded allover vigorously. As crop yields and farm incomes rose, so did land values. Britain, dependent on imports for two-thirds of its food needs in 1940, is now 75 per cent self-sufficient in food that can be grown in a northern climate. But by the late 1970s pressure was building to reduce the cost of the CAP, which had as its central feature a system that in effect guaranteed many farmers a minimum return for everything they could produce, irrespective of demand.

In May the EC finally agreed to reforms in the CAP which should encourage farmers to produce for the market rather than for the subsidy. Barely 2 per cent of the British labour force now works in agriculture, compared with 7 per cent in the EC as a whole. The average size of Britain's 250,000 farms is 160 acres, about five times the average for the Community overall.

In one respect the CAP reforms will be felt more severely here than elsewhere. To qualify for the new grants, farmers will have to leave 15 per cent of their arable land fallow each year in rotation. Many farmers on the Continent will be exempt from "set-aside" because their land holding is too small.



Disappearing world: for a farmer to be forced to let his land lie fallow is a calculated insult, says Thierry Sarazen, who is pessimistic about agriculture's future

Reducing production and price is unacceptable

Thierry Sarazen, a farmer with 50 hectares (125 acres) in the Champagne region north of Reims, shifts effortlessly between the intricacies of the reformed CAP and the sociological role of the farmer in modern France. But as he considers both subjects, there is the same wistfulness in his voice. "Our numbers are down. The sociological weight that we had is on the wane, because we represent, in fact, a world that's disappearing," he adds that French farmers

no longer have their traditional mission to feed the population so the French people do not listen as carefully to what the agricultural sector is saying.

His farm is small by French standards. About 30 hectares (75 acres) is given to cereals, another 13 (32 acres) to sugar beet, and the rest to whatever is marketable in any given year.

"Under the new CAP I will have to leave 4.3 hectares (10.75 acres) fallow. I'll only get a subsidy for about half of what I would get if I

farmed it, and that means a drop in income of Fr25,000 (£3,250) a year. But apart from the loss in money, what is intolerable for the farmers of this region is the fact that people are to be paid for doing nothing. For a farmer to be forced to let his land go fallow is a calculated insult."

He predicts the return of "bad grass" as a result of the policy, because the land will be uncared for. "And the parasites will come back, they'll sneak back on to the uncultivated land," he says.

The French farmers, he says, were told that if they accepted the new CAP deal Europe would hold solid against United States' demands in the GATT negotiations. "Now we hear that the Americans still want to pressurise the Europeans to reduce production and prices. It is just unacceptable."

The concept of a common agricultural policy, the mechanisms that have been in place for 20 years, works, he believes. "I'm for it, because for me European development will mean a richness for

the different countries in Europe."

Other farmers around Au Menancourt where he farms look to M. Sarazen, 50, for advice, and they elected him mayor of the 700-strong commune. But he is pessimistic about the future for agriculture. The future of his own 50 hectares is also uncertain, he admits. He has three teenage daughters, but none of them are showing much interest in carrying on the family farming tradition.

SEAN MAC CARTHAIGH



Fallow fears: Anthony Pemberton on some of his set-aside land

The budgets do not look at all bad and we certainly should not be any worse off

Like other British farmers, Anthony Pemberton, who farms 5,000 acres of arable land in Cambridgeshire, has spent much of this year digesting the CAP reforms which may now be reinforced by further cuts in farm subsidies being discussed in the GATT negotiations.

"We have done our sums and the figures don't look too horrendous," he says. Pressed to be more specific, he allows that "the budgets do not look at all bad and we certainly should not be any worse off". That is about as close as most farmers will come to admitting that the reforms are nothing like the calamity some had feared.

Mr Pemberton would fit most people's idea of an East Anglian "grain baron". Well over half the 5,000 acres the family owns, rents or manages is under cereals, with sugar beet, potatoes, peas, beans and oilseed rape being the other main crops.

One of the chief goals of the CAP reforms, and of the tortuous GATT negotiations, is to reduce the incentive for farmers such as Mr Pemberton to squeeze every last ounce of output from their acres. The minimum price per tonne that cereals farmers are guaran-

teed will be cut, in stages, by 29 per cent over the next three years. To offset loss of income, farmers will be paid a direct grant for every acre of cereals they grow, rising from £49 next year to £58 by 1996.

Mr Pemberton could well end up making even better profits than before. But there is a catch. The generous acreage grants may not continue after 1996, and to qualify for them he will have to "set aside" 15 per cent of his arable land, rotating it round the farm.

"We are all going to have to relearn our husbandry techniques," he says. "If you grow two or three cereal crops on the trot in the same field, you tend to lose yield in the second and third years. If you put a break crop in, you get a higher yield again in the first wheat crop that follows it. What none of us knows is whether you will get the same yield boost after leaving a field fallow. There could also be a carry-over of weed and disease."

Mr Pemberton will be putting more emphasis on quality than quantity, but the scope is limited. "We have been reducing fertiliser and chemical use for four or five years now," he says.

MICHAEL HORNSBY

Not for nothing has President Bush been making a whistle-stop tour of Iowa and the plains of middle America in this last full week of the election campaign. In those states lies the farming vote, which is growing increasingly testy and must be pacified.

It was the United States, backed by low-cost food exporters such as Australia and New Zealand, that insisted, in 1986, on the inclusion of farm trade in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) talks on the liberalisation of world trade. American cereal farmers, in particular, complained that they were losing markets to the more heavily subsidised EC exports.

President Bush's hard line on GATT talks is intended to make the country's two million farmers feel he is brandishing their pitchfork. America has demanded a 24 per cent cut in the volume of all subsidised European farm exports, which the EC thinks excessive.

Thirty-seven per cent of America's food and agricultural products are imported, largely from Europe, and Mr Bush's threat this week to put punitive import taxes of \$300 million (£186 million) on French products if the EC deadlock continues could trigger a bloody trade war. Columnists in America are discussing whether France is about to outdo Japan as "public enemy number one" and whether "a transatlantic food fight" may boost Mr Bush's reputation as the foreign affairs president.

Cynics noted that when the president's popularity was heading rapidly down in early September, he suddenly eased regulations governing the Export Enhancement Programme (EEP), which subsidises American crop exports by paying wholesalers some of the difference if they are about to be undercut on world markets, and increased its annual budget by \$1 billion. But American spending on export subsidies remains minuscule compared to European ones — one tenth of the EC budget.

On Tuesday Mr Bush was in Iowa trying to convince the depopulated farming state of his determination, but for many Iowans that was too late. Over 14,000 farmers there have declared themselves bankrupt in the past ten years, and this latest recession is not helping those sticking it out.



Duane Sanders: favours a market based on demand and supply

The American government subsidies are really no more than a Band Aid

Deep in the God-fearing grainbelt of America, Duane Sanders has farmed his land for over 40 years. His father for 40 years before that. Tilling the Kansas soil is not quite as simple as it was then, when the farmer simply took his bushels of wheat to Wichita market. Now, Mr Sanders has to juggle government subsidies and wheelin' dealin' wholesalers, and second guess Jacques Delors.

Until recently, Paris, France, was of much less interest around here than, say, Paris, Texas, or Paris, Kentucky. But as generously subsidised French farmers undercut American wheat-growers, far-away Europe is coming close to home.

The Sanders, who farm north-east of Wichita, have had to cut down on wheat, sorghum and alfalfa because the market prices were not balancing the books. The Sanders have stopped renting some land, and have moved to sheep farming, cattle-fattening and semi-retirement. Mr Sanders says American government subsidies are "no more than a Band Aid — they might just pay the gas bill, and you never know when or what you're going to get".

The European subsidies seem great riches compared to "the trickle-down that we get", he says. "I would rather we had a market based on supply and demand. I know we produce more than other countries, but what they're paid leaves us well behind."

American farmers consider themselves far less coddled than the French. Howard Tice, the executive director of the Kansas Wheat Growers' Association, claims that the European subsidy system is "ludicrous — although I guess if I was a French producer I wouldn't think so".

He points to an extreme example two years ago when Kansas was trying to sell wheat to the former Soviet Union. The wheat actually costs \$105 a tonne to produce. The Americans reduced their price to \$95, with the EEP making up the \$10 loss. They still did not clinch the deal, so they reduced the price to \$85 a tonne. "But the French undercut to \$75 a tonne," says Mr Tice, "and they were still being paid \$200 a tonne by their government. How can we compete? How is that fair?"

KATE MUIR

Beer for a dead soldier

Vietnam war mementos go on display in the US

When the polished black granite Vietnam war memorial — known as the Wall — went up in Washington, DC, ten years ago, no one could have guessed the outpouring of emotion it would inspire. People have argued over it, wept against it, and many have left pieces of their past beside it.

More than 500 of the 25,000 objects left at the monument over the past decade are being displayed for the first time this week in an exhibition entitled "Personal Legacy", at the National Museum of American History in Washington. Lasting until June next year, the exhibition kicks off a six-day celebration of the tenth anniversary of the memorial, which will culminate in a continuous 64-hour reading of all 58,183 of the names of the dead and missing etched in the Wall, and a march by an expected 100,000 veterans on Veterans' Day on November 11.

Many of the mementos in "Personal Legacy" are easily understood: a uniform, a sealed letter, a photograph of a child who never got to see his father. Others have special significance only to the dead for whom they were intended: a pack of cigarettes, a pair of silk panties, a can of beer with a note that reads "Here's the beer I owe you. Twenty-four years late." Other



Veteran's badge of memory

ers are still more mysterious: a black-and-white television set, a pair of bicycle fenders, a miniature artificial Christmas tree.

The Vietnam war was the first to come directly into American living rooms via television. It dramatically affected the 2.7 million who fought in Southeast Asia, and for some, it continues in a legacy of heroin addiction or the long term effects of poisons such as "Agent Orange", or homelessness, depression and post-traumatic stress.

"Like a kind of chorus, these objects are the voice of our country as we wrestle with the memory of Vietnam," says John Wheeler, fundraising chairman of Beyond the Wall, the organisation funding the exhibition. "Leaving an object is an attempt to break down the barrier of death."

In 1982, after much controversy, veterans finally received the go-ahead to build the memorial. Many thought the winning design, submitted by Maya Ying Lin, a 21-year-old architecture student at Yale, was inappropriate. Calling it "a tombstone", "a black gash of shame and sorrow" and "a wailing wall for anti-draft demonstrators", many veterans — including one H. Ross Perot — fought to have the concept changed entirely or at least for the addition of a flag and a statue of some soldiers.

Since its dedication in 1982, many things have changed. The path beside the memorial has been smoothed and widened several times to accommodate its 30 million visitors. By 1984, the flag and the "Three Servicemen" statue had been added. Ladders were made available so that people could make pencil rubbings of the names etched at the Wall's highest points. Next year a new statue, honouring women, will be added.

As the Wall has evolved, so has America's view of the war. The Wall has had the effect over the years, particularly in the early years, of healing an open sore of the wound of Vietnam," says Ken Berz, a Vietnam veteran and associate director of the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation. "The point of this tenth anniversary is to heal and seal the wound permanently," says Jan Scruggs, president and founder of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, the organisation that raised the \$7 million to build the Wall.

RENE RILEY-ADAMS

Father knows best... or does he?

Beneath the happy façade, doubts lurk for the family man who ponders the imponderable: are these children really mine? Sean French reports

My foremothers had one advantage over the men whose names they took. They were certain that they were the mothers of their children, but their husbands or lovers could never be entirely sure of their own relation. This insecurity was articulated by Dr Johnson in a conversation recorded in James Boswell's *Life*:

I mentioned to him a dispute between a friend of mine and his lady, concerning conjugal infidelity, which my friend had maintained was by no means so bad in the husband, as in the wife. Johnson: "Your friend was in the right, Sir. Between a man and his Maker it is a different question; but between a man and his wife, a husband's infidelity is nothing. They are connected by children, by fortune, by serious considerations of community. Wise married women don't trouble themselves about infidelity in their husbands."

Boswell: "To be sure there is a great difference between the offence of infidelity in a man and that of his wife." Johnson: "The difference is boundless. The man imposes no bastards upon his wife."

The traditional British marriage can be seen as a bargain proceeding from this anxiety about paternity. If the woman had relinquished her name and all her possessions, and depended on her husband for her basic subsistence, it was in her interest to convince him that her children were also his.

to leave them might become irresistible.

Our view of property, marriage and sexual morality is now hopelessly muddled but the paternal anxiety survives. It's not just that the New Man might be reluctant to demonstrate his sensitivity by getting back from work in order to read a story to a child that he thinks may not be his. It is my experience of a year of fatherhood that people are more insistent in pointing out the resemblance of the baby to the father than to the mother, as if each such observation were a testimonial of authenticity. This is scarcely a scientific finding, but even if it is not strictly true, it doesn't matter, since my perception of the supposed phenomenon must itself be a demonstration that the anxiety exists. But then perhaps I have a special reason to be anxious, or perhaps people are being overly insistent about the resemblance because they know something I don't about reasons there may be to doubt my paternity. Excuse me, if I stop writing for a few minutes while I go and look at my daughter.

Well, that's all right. It's not just that she obviously looks like me, but on that flap of flesh that protects the ear, the one that you press into the cavity when you try to block out sound, well, I have a small lump on my right one and my daughter has a small lump on her left one, so the chances must be millions and millions to one that we are not related, unless, that is, we both have small tumours on our ears, but even that would be more likely if we really were father and daughter, wouldn't it?

I suspect that most men are uneasy with the idea of fatherhood in a way that women are not with motherhood. Most men become fathers twice. The first occasion is at the moment of conception. After my daughter had been conceived I could have absconded, been kidnapped by aliens,

died, and she would have been born just the same. And those men who do depart for one reason or another are still fathers in a sense that the best stepfather in the world will never be. Yet when the baby is born the man has to become a father in a different, public way, putting on the old robes, creaky, ill-fitting, moth-eaten, worn with overuse.

The second fatherhood is a contract that has to be renegotiated every time. If the first paternal anxiety is about the questionable male relationship to the baby, then the second is an envy of the mother's unquestionable relationship. One of the most potent myths ever invented by a woman is Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, the man harnessing all technology in order to cobble together his own baby with lightning and scraps from the graveyard.

I grew up on another, more insidious version of that myth. Dr Seuss's story for children, *Horton Hatches the Egg*. Readers may recall that Maisie the lazy bird is tired of sitting on her egg in the jungle and she departs on holiday, enlisting Horton, a passing elephant, to sit on it for her. Horton faces terrible hardships. He is rained and snowed upon, then captured and displayed in a circus to mocking audiences, but he keeps his promise: "I meant what I said, and I said what I meant. An elephant's faithful one hundred per cent." Just as the egg is about to hatch, Maisie returns to claim her egg, but then it hatches and out pops a little elephant with wings. Thirty years *avant la lettre* is this not the dream of the New Man, that by being sensitive enough, by finding the womanly side of himself, the woman can be supplanted altogether? The climax of this tendency was enacted in Turgenev's 1991 novel, *Redemption* in which, when the mother fails to produce milk for the baby, it is miracu-

ously suckled by its father.

Anxiety is a form of aggression, and if fathers envy the mother's biological connection, this is accompanied by a sense that motherhood is just a little too easy. The baby pops out and is applied to the breast; what is that compared with the struggles that fathers face? Robert Benton's utterly monstrous film, *Kramer vs Kramer*, is an epic in which Dustin Hoffman's achievement is not to kill the white whale or forge a mighty sword but to learn how to make breakfast for his son. *Field of Dreams* is another epic in which Kevin Costner, the New Man's answer to Gary Cooper, heals his psyche, and by implication that of America, by summoning his father from beyond the grave in order to throw a baseball with him. The bond between father and child, especially father and son, is portrayed as an exclusion of the mother. In his deranged megalomaniac movie *The Alamo*, in which, as one critic observed, the slogan "Better Dead than Red" is replaced by the slogan "Better Tex than Mex", John Wayne/Davy Crockett compares the feeling that the word "republic" gives him to the feeling a man gets when he holds his first son in his arms. The mother-child relation is introverted private; the father-child relation is extroverted, public and public-spirited.

My original thought for the title of my anthology of essays on fatherhood was *Fatherland*, which seemed to me very Virago, with its suggestion of patriarchal totalitarianism, but this was considered too grim and, besides, a thriller of that title appeared earlier this year. My next idea was *From Here to Paternity*, which was considered not grim enough, sounding more like a collection of articles from *Punch* on the "funny side of fatherhood, an irreverent sideways look at the world of changing nappies and escaping to the 19th hole".

In the end, a simple title seemed best. As Dr Johnson defined "fatherhood" in his *Dictionary*, "The character of a father; the authority of a father". But then, Dr Johnson was childless.

● *Extracted from Fatherhood: Men write about Fathering, edited by Sean French (Virago, £11.99) Books, page 36*



Sean French with daughter Hadley and, foreground, stepchildren Anna and Edgar

Heroics in shock

Everyone loves to hear about calm heroes who battle their way to victory despite appalling injuries. This week we heard of the composure of Sergeant Bob Window, the policeman who chatted politely to the people helping him after his hand was hacked off with a samurai sword.

In fact, his response was the typical reaction of an individual faced with a sudden and overwhelming threat to his life. However, it was a series of helpful physiological reactions, rather than shock itself, which helped him stay so cool. Medically, shock is a physical condition caused by lack of blood in the tissues and is clearly distinguished from the emotional distress which most lay people are describing when they talk about shock.

Sgt Window was working in a hostile environment. Even before he was attacked, his adrenal glands would have been producing extra amounts of adrenaline, the "fight or flight" hormone. The effects of adrenaline would have increased the efficiency of his heart and lungs, and raised his blood sugar to fuel a surge of extra activity. This, combined with the release of endorphins, the body's painkillers, would have helped him get to safety after his hand was severed.

"There are many similar cases, particularly in wartime," says Dr Glenys Parry, the director of psychological services for Sheffield health authority. "The painkillers and tranquillisers produced by the body give a feeling of unreality, a cold detachment which makes it possible to act calmly. It is the body's way of buying time to deal with a threat, a very useful survival mechanism. It can be minutes or months before reality breaks through."

Michael Brough, a council member of the British Association of Plastic Surgeons, says a less serious injury might have proved more dangerous. If Sgt Window's artery and blood vessels had been partially severed, bleeding would have been much more severe, leading to a risk of physiological shock, the symptoms of which include rapid shallow breathing, clammy skin and fainting. Shock can kill unless the lost fluids are rapidly replaced.

ANN KENT

Trouble with bird fancying

A FEW years ago bird fanciers wrote in flocks to *The Times* to protest that over the course of a week or two we had carried two "anti-bird" stories. The first reported that the late Keith Castle, then the longest-living heart transplant patient, had been struck low by pigeon fancier's lung after clearing the pigeons, together with their dusty droppings, out of his roof space. We reminded readers that pneumonia caused by ornithosis (psittacosis) was much more common than hitherto supposed and that the disease was spread by pigeons, budgerigars and canaries as well as parrots.

The final insult came, in the bird fanciers' view, when we reported the research of a Dutch GP, Dr P. Holtz, who had produced figures which showed that bird fanciers, regardless of the type of bird that they kept, were nearly seven times more likely to develop lung cancer, and that if all the pigeon lofts and bird cages in The Hague were to be emptied, the total incidence of lung cancer in the city



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttford

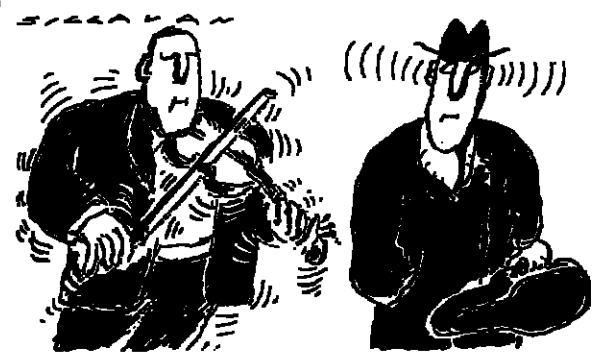
would be only a third of what it was. There are obvious factors which can confuse these statistics. It is possible that pigeon fanciers and canary breeders may also be heavy smokers, but Dr Holtz did make allowance for this. They may be drawn unequally from one particular social class, or from one particular form of employment. In view of these doubts Dr Holtz suggested that his figures needed further and more detailed research. This research, with the figures carefully adjusted for smoking and other relevant confounding variations, was carried out in Lanark-

shire, Scotland, and West Berlin; results have been published in the *British Medical Journal*.

The Berliners confirmed, up to a point, the Dutch statistics. The bad news is that in West Berlin the chance of a bird fancier developing lung cancer is doubled; the good news is that long term exposure to household pets other than birds does not increase the risk of lung cancer.

The results of the Scottish research are less striking. The authors concluded that there was a relationship between pigeon keeping and cancer of the lung but that the risk of lung cancer was not significantly associated with other pet birds.

The Lanarkshire doctors research exposed one difference between Dutch and Scottish bird keepers: the Dutch more often than the Scottish have the bird in their bedroom. Only two of the 72 Scots kept birds in the bedroom, but the habit seemed to be rife in Holland.



Deafness and the orchestra pit

OPERA buffs will have stripped their bank accounts bare this week to pay for the pleasure of hearing Plácido Domingo and Kiri Te Kanawa at Covent Garden. As they listen to the octogenarian Georg Solti conducting the orchestra, carefully and constantly rehearsed, they should realise that they are confronting a group of workers who may well be suffering from an industrial injury just as real as that experienced by hop pickers, who develop a tenosynovitis of the wrist, or stonemasons whose lungs have become fibrosed through pneumoconiosis.

The usual belief is that it is youths in pop groups who will suffer deafness as a result of their music but recent research in the *Journal*

of the Royal Society of Medicine has compared the hearing of the City of Birmingham orchestral players with that of allegedly one of the loudest rock bands in the world, Man O' War. Many of the rock players complained of tinnitus and a feeling that their ears were blocked. But the effect was usually shortlived, whereas 20 per cent of the orchestral players had permanent hearing defects.

Deafness from music is apparently more related to the frequency of exposure, its intensity and duration rather than the loudness at any one moment. However, pop enthusiasts do suffer hearing loss and wearing a personal stereo all day can equal the damage of a busy rehearsal schedule.

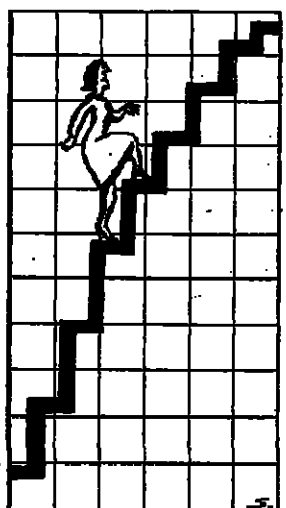
Mettle for mature males

A CONFERENCE in Washington was told last week that women were able to take the strain of office in-fighting and in general bear the stresses of work better than men because they had lower levels of testosterone and were thus less aggressive and competitive. Without this hormone-driven need to fight, women were, the lecturer implied, able to plot their way calmly to the top, picking a path around the men who had fallen in thoughtless warring.

Testosterone, the male hormone, is present in varying amounts in both sexes. In women its presence becomes of increasing significance as they grow older and it is attributed with providing the drive in later life which puts the post-menopausal woman on the bench or board.

Conversely in men its decrease is one of the inevitable changes of aging and is blamed for the increasing impotence and loss of interest in the opposite sex as men grow older.

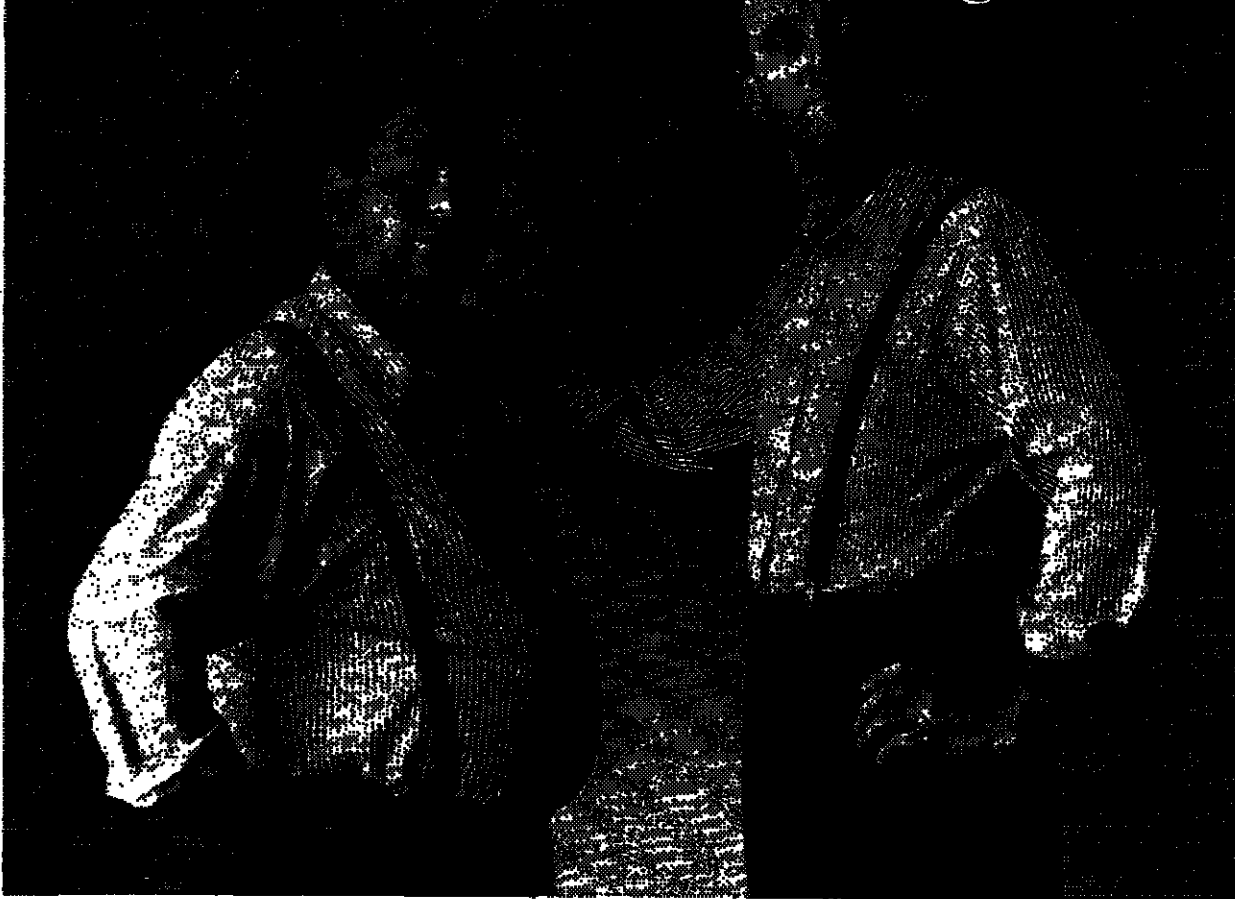
Received wisdom has it that testosterone injections will only restore a flagging masculinity if the pituitary hormones, which regulate the testosterone-producing



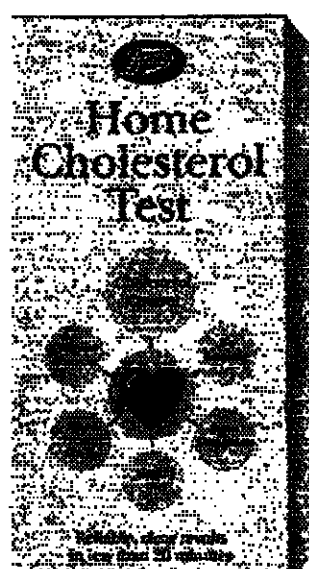
function of the testicles, have already increased in response to the lower levels of circulating testosterone. But in practice many patients with low levels of pituitary hormones and testosterone do benefit.

There is good news in the *British Medical Journal* for those men who need quite a different type of injection, papaverine, which is given actually into the penis. And experience has shown that another way of controlling the blood supply is the local application of a nitroglycerin transdermal plaster, which causes expansion in the blood vessels. It is usually used to treat angina and will help a failing organ.

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You'd be forgiven for assuming that the slimmer, fitter-looking man on the right has a lower cholesterol level.

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Bryan Appleyard

■ The crazes for keep-fit and computer games have come together in the Gladiators

Mike Ahearne was an 11-stone weakling, but now he eats ten Shredded Wheat for breakfast, weighs 21 stone and looks like a block of flats made of human tissue. His new name is Warrior and he is a Gladiator. "I reckon", he explains, "95 per cent of the women I meet want their fellas to be like a Gladiator."

Gladiators is a new television show set before an audience of 8,000 at the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham and broadcast on Saturday nights to an audience of 13 million. It is distantly descended from *It's a Knockout* without the big feet, Stuart Hall, Eddie Waring or Fergie. A resident team of male and female Glads with names like Warrior, Scorpio, Jet and Panther take on challengers with names like Kevin and Nigel. For some reason both sexes wear lycra bikinis. They play strange, violent, essentially gymnastic games and then talk, po-faced, about their tactics to hysterical commentators.

This is, without doubt, the hottest thing in the nation's playgrounds and junior discos. It has taken over from the short-lived teen and sub-teen craze for American wrestling. This consisted of a series of flagrantly rigged bouts between monstrous and usually very fat men who were then marketed on stickers, in comics and as collectable small, plastic figures in toy shops. Like *Gladiators* it was all about stylised violence, but its appeal was different. The wrestlers were ogres, as attractive to small children as giants in fairy stories. The Glads, in contrast, are heroes, role models, gods and goddesses of the keep-fit, eat-healthy, workout culture.

At first the imagery of the show is puzzling. It betrays the influences of the Mad Max films, of heavy metal music and, naturally, of anything starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. There is also a highly mannered version of gym-style big training shoes, sweat bands and all the lycra. The setting is that of a sporting contest, but strangely intensified. There is a carefully cultivated hint of anarchy in the arena. You are lured by the whipped-up competitive hysteria into feeling that the violence could get out of control. People could die at the hands of their opponents or because of their own overreaching fervour. These are, after all, *Gladiators*.

Puzzlement clears when you suddenly realise that this is a computer game made flesh. From the beginning arcade and domestic games software has predominantly been about violence. Initially this was almost all of the star wars or fighter pilot variety, but, as the technology improved, more organic manoeuvres became possible. This allowed the computer to simulate conflict between humans and/or creatures. The imagery chosen for these conflicts was either from the movie *Ninja Turtles* or whatever — or from a strangely confused dustbin of mythologies.

Norse axemen, Greek gods and medieval swordsmen and all their associated iconography have been whipped together to provide narrative dressing for the computerised battles. Children with computers now unquestioningly inhabit an imaginative realm constructed from a mass of disembodied and deracinated bits of world mythologies. The *Gladiators* are remote descendants of Roman warriors filtered through the desperate imaginations of software designers.

Computer games allow one to engage in the logic of these violent worlds without danger. All computer game promotion emphasises the excitement of entering the machine world and all developments in computer entertainment — notably virtual reality — are aimed at intensifying the degree to which the user is involved. Armed with your joystick or your VR helmet and glove, you utterly cease to be a spotty, inhibited, frustrated teenager and become a mighty warrior.

The body transformed into a machine is a clear enough image of what is going on here. For *Gladiators* is a superbly succinct synthesis of two of the most potent fashions in popular culture — the body craze and the computer craze. Computers provide the context by generating an imagery and style of violence with which the audience feels at home; working out in the gym provides the ideal and the ethic.

The fitness ethic has become almost the one identifiable value system that suffuses all youth culture. It is virtuous to compete in this way, even in the case of Warrior Mike Ahearne, to dedicate your life to the task. He stopped being an insurance salesman to devote himself more fully to the cause of his muscles. The very word "work" with its overtones of goodness is now most frequently employed in the context of an aerobics class or a gym circuit.

Such exercise is a very pure form of Cartesianism. The mind treats the body as an object in the world, a machine, and acts upon it. The machinery of the gym and all the language of the workout encourages the participant to regard his body as a cladding, something that can be improved the better to satisfy the cravings — for sex, power or recognition — of the mind. Ideally, through the rite of passage of the workout, he should become like Schwarzenegger in *Terminator*, an almost invulnerable robot clad, purely for purposes of disguise, in a coating of synthetic flesh.

Invulnerability is the source of almost all childhood and teenage fantasies. The big bully is beaten by our secret mastery of a martial art, we outgun the baddies, we walk through the flames, we are Superman or Captain America. The *Gladiators* are very young, very fit and apparently motivated to the point of psychosis. They can do anything. Seldom can teenage fashions have been so neatly realised in the imagery of mass entertainment. The *Gladiators* are fantasy figures who have transcended mess and inadequacy by becoming, almost, machines.

The prime minister is doing a good job clearing up after Mrs Thatcher, says Bruce Anderson

The case for John Major

Although she was a great prime minister, Margaret Thatcher left John Major with an accursed inheritance. If his premiership is now embattled, it is because of the difficulties he has encountered in clearing up her mess.

By 1990, Thatcherism had faltered in four crucial areas. The first was Europe. Ever since the original signature to the Treaty of Rome, successive British governments had been dishonest. The treaty committed us to a number of goals — above all European union — which the British electorate would have found unacceptable. Politicians involved with European affairs sought to circumvent this by a double deception. The public were deceived as to the nature of the obligations entered into, while the politicians deceived themselves as to the strength of foreigners' enthusiasm for the European ideal.

In all this, the Great Handbagger was as guilty as anyone. By signing the Single European Act she not only transferred significant power from Westminster to Brussels; she committed us to federalist sentiments quite as obnoxious as anything in the Maastricht Treaty. Presumably she did so on the assumption that while

the single market was to Britain's advantage, the unpalatable parts of the Single European Act would turn out to be empty rhetoric. If so, she reckoned without Jacques Delors, plus the Euro-nomenklatura.

By 1990, the Conservative party was deeply split. If it had been mishandled, the European issue could have wrecked the party quite as comprehensively as the Corn Laws had: it may still.

John Major's view of Europe is identical to Mrs Thatcher's. He wants free trade, not federalism: enlargement, not narrowing — above all, he wants a Europe capable of discharging its responsibilities in the East, and not the little Europeanism of Jacques Delors and Brussels. He decided that to secure those objectives a different style was needed based on the cunning of Ulysses, not on the brawn of Achilles.

By proclaiming his desire for Britain to be at the heart of Europe Mr Major rebuilt Britain's Euro-diplomacy. He then

used that goodwill to defeat the federalists at Maastricht. They had hoped to bring foreign affairs, defence and Home Office matters within the Treaty of Rome. Mr Major kept them outside the treaty. They also intended to secure a binding commitment to economic and monetary union: Mr Major secured an opt-out clause.

In all this, he was taking a broad historical perspective. He believes that the federalists' attempts to supersede the nation state are doomed to failure, but that there are real short-term dangers. If Britain had refused to sign a deal at Maastricht — worse still if we were to repudiate it now — those in favour of the treaty would not have meekly accepted our decision, but would press ahead without us.

This could have drastic consequences for British trade. The French have as little enthusiasm for free trade as we have for federalism. It is risible to suppose that we would be able to sell Japanese cars made in Britain to a Europe in which we had lost all political influence.

If we avoid a breakdown in relations with the rest of the Community and if the Conservative party can hold its nerve, then in the course of this decade we will finesse the Europe we want. This will be the greatest achievement of Mr Major's long premiership.

Thatcherism's second great failure was inflation. After 11½ years of commitment to counter-inflation, the inflation rate was 10 per cent and rising. Mr Major's first task was to bring that down and there was no way of doing so without pain.

Britain's forced withdrawal from the exchange-rate mechanism was a defeat for the government and damaged the prime minister's credibility. But six years after the great depression finance ministers have still not learned how to achieve a balance between growth and counter-inflation. Mr Major cannot be held personally responsible either for the implosion of the ERM or for the defects of the world monetary system. Largely due to the rigour with which he has pur-

sued a counter-inflation policy, Britain is well placed to resume non-inflationary growth. That goal ultimately eluded Mrs Thatcher. It will be the second great achievement of the Major premiership.

Mrs Thatcher's third defect was her failure to offer a coherent theory of the state. Sometimes she seemed to think that the state should consist solely of anarchy plus the constable: a most un-Tory view. At other times she would boast about having increased public spending, without explaining how she would ensure that the money was spent effectively.

So we arrived at a malign paradox: high public spending, which satisfied no one, 12 per cent of GDP spent on welfare and a burgeoning underclass. Paul Johnson yesterday derided the Citizen's Charter. But how else would he begin the hard task of ensuring that the taxpayer will ultimately receive as much value for a pound spent on his behalf by the state as he does for the pound he spends in a supermarket?

The fourth and final failure was the Union. For all Mrs Thatcher's efforts, the Union was much more under threat in 1990 than it had been in 1979. The problems remain in Scotland as in Ulster. But the fervour with which Mr Major proclaimed his own unionism has at least brought the issue back to the centre of British politics. He is also having more success in convincing the Scots and Northern Irish that London cares about them.

Over the past few weeks an impression that he is at the mercy of events has done more than anything to undermine Mr Major's standing and to give an impression of weakness. But this is a superficial analysis based on a wilful refusal to recognise the depth of the problems facing him and the country.

No one who examines the challenges the prime minister has faced and surmounted since December 1990 could possibly believe him to be a weak man. He may not have enough gift of language to distract the nation from reality: Are we less well governed as a result?

The author is the prime minister's biographer and a columnist for the Sunday Express.

Laugh? I nearly died

Bernard Levin delights in a surreal new show that had him rolling helpless in the aisles

Of all the gifts that the gods have showered upon us, laughter is one of the most precious. Yet at the same time most mysterious. Indeed, the double conundrum — what causes laughter and what is laughter — remains impenetrable, despite all the psychologists, to say nothing of the comedians. It is certainly very old: the reception of Aristophanes in his day was such as to make plain that even then humour had long been established, and he demonstrated something else: that time does not change the nature of humour, for we laugh at him today as his audiences did two and a half millennia ago.

Of the two mysteries, the second is less significant but more extraordinary. Whatever humour is, why do we greet it with the most extraordinary noise, in which our faces are distorted in the most peculiar manner, and our bodies (if the humour is powerful enough) become uncontrollable? No one knows, though everyone knows that a powerful fit of laughter, no matter what has provoked it, is an immensely therapeutic experience.

The least funny book ever written, not excluding the autobiography of Leonid Brezhnev (for which, incidentally, he awarded himself the Soviet equivalent of the Booker prize), is Freud's *Jokes and their Relation to the Unconscious*. If you don't believe me, try a few examples — real ones, I swear, annotations and all. Viz:

"Itzig had been declared fit for service in the artillery. He was clearly an intelligent lad, but intractable and without any interest in the service. One of his superior officers, who was friendly disposed to him, took him on one side and said to him: 'Itzig, you're no use to us. I'll give you a piece of advice: buy yourself a cannon and make yourself independent.'"

This advice, which may raise a hearty laugh, is obvious nonsense. Cannons are not to be bought and an individual cannot make himself independent as a military unit — set himself up in business, as it were. But it is impossible to doubt for a moment that the advice is not mere nonsense, but joking nonsense — an excellent joke.

Or try this one — shorter, but hardly less rollicking: "Two Jews were discussing baths. 'I have a bath every year,' said one of them, 'whether I need one or not.' It is obvious that this boastful insistence on his cleanliness only serves to convict him of uncleanness."

We have all experienced what Shakespeare called "the insane root that takes the reason prisoner", or if we have not, there is an impoverishment somewhere in our natures. Laughter has very many gradations, and it is very rare for anyone to reach the highest of all, where mirth is so powerful that the helplessness it induces is close to fear. In my youth, the Marx brothers lifted me to that Ulyssian plateau: their power over me eventually faded, but the *Coon Show*, on BBC radio, replaced them.

In the theatre, there was of course *Beyond the Fringe*, sniffed at as "undergraduate humour", but acknowledged by any far-seeing spectator to have brought an extra dimension to humour. There was also the dangerously titled *An Evening of British Rubbish*, which turned out to be the show that came closest to killing me — I was so completely out of control, mind and body alike, that I was hurting myself about, and in one hurt hit my head, full tilt, against a pillar at the end of the row. I was then a theatre critic, and when I came to, I realised that it would have made a wonderful ad for the show: "Critic died laughing."

My regular readers will have guessed that I am leading up to something, and so I am. There is a show in London, at the tiny Arts Theatre, Great Newport Street, a few steps from Leicester Square tube station, which fits my template of uncontrollable laughter, and clearly fined the rest of the audience when I saw

it a week or two ago. Three men, Americans, calling themselves the Reduced Shakespeare Company, embark nightly (with a Saturday matinee) on an enterprise blithely called *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*, and I suppose you could say that that is what they give you, stretching

a point or two. But they are not just funny, not even just very funny indeed; they bring that heavenly release which tells us that the last chain of logic and reality has been broken, and we are hurtled into stupendous, anarchic joy.

Their names are Adam Long, Reed Martin and Austin Tichenor; in America they got together largely by chance and gradually turned themselves into this three-man Shakespearean extravaganza, playing one-nighters and moving on. (They even had the impudence to put on the show in the Shakespearean holiness of the Folger Shakespeare Library, and

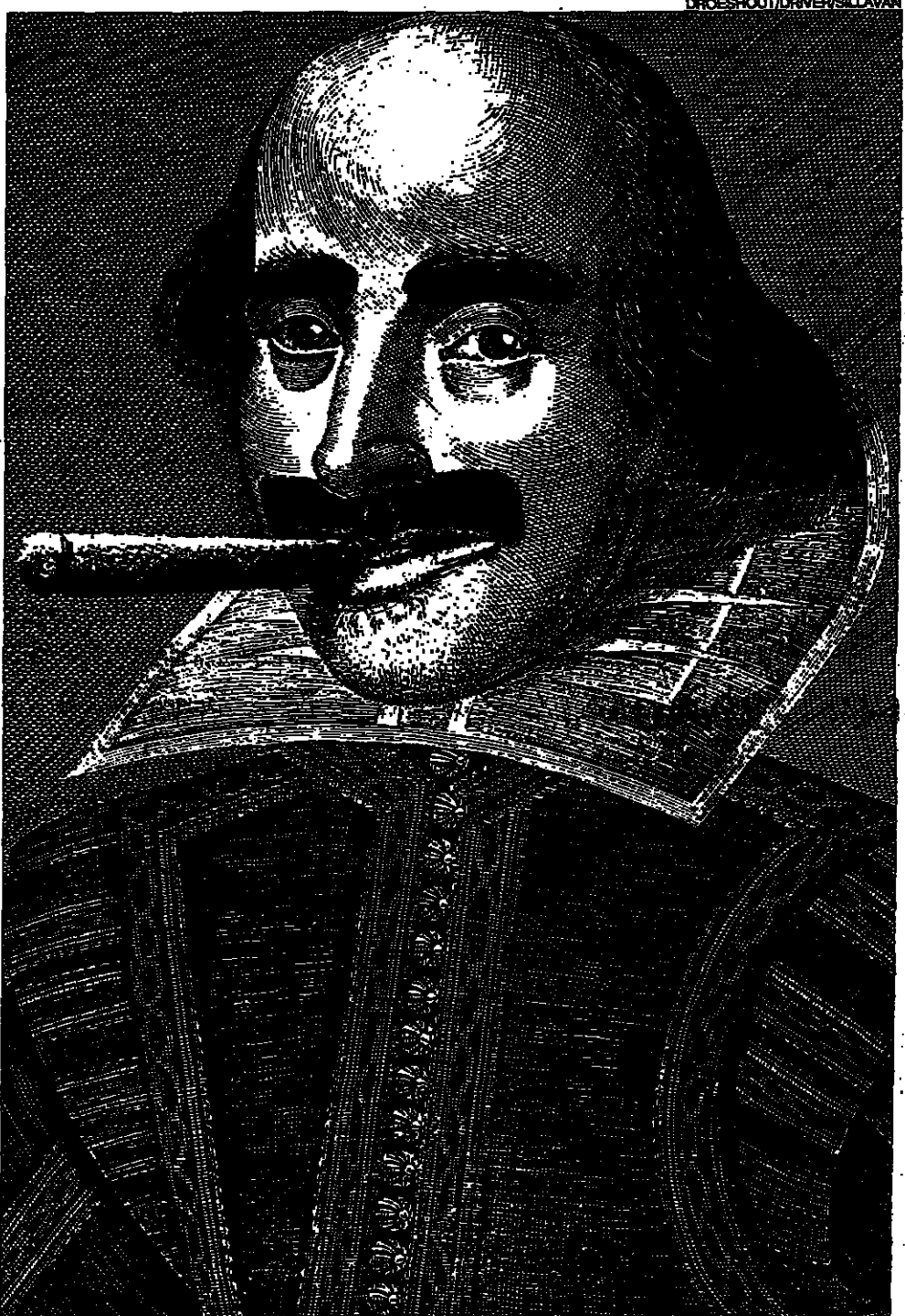
got away unscathed and applauded with it.) They came to the fringe of the Edinburgh Festival, though so did several hundred other groups of thespian hopefuls, but by then their American fame had taken hold, and they went home after Edinburgh and continued to tour. Then they returned the following year, again to Edinburgh, and then came south. And here they are.

To analyse humour is even worse than trying to define it, but I must try. These three men have tapped a wonderful spring: I think it is the element of inconsequentiality that separates them from ordinary funny men. Let me give you an example: at one point, with no relevance at all to the structure (if it has one) of the show, a little clockwork *Godzilla* wanders out from the wings and lurches downstage, while the three seem helpless to do anything about it or even understand what is happening. Surrealism is an overworked term, but these three earn it: their surrealism, though, is shaped into laughter; if we had a moment's pause we would be asking how it is done, but we have no moment's pause, only more laughter.

This is not haphazard clowning (though Reed Martin was once a circus clown); it is, among the rioting of laughter, a carefully worked scenario, its effect deliberate, its skill highly professional, its ad-lib scrupulously few, its theatricality undoubted. It is obvious that they are enjoying themselves, as we are, and for the same reason: on stage and in the auditorium we have all let go of reason, that murderer of mirth.

These are dark days; death and anger stalk the world. But heaven forbid that anyone would enter the Arts Theatre just to get away from the mad reality outside. For *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)* is no baby's dummy, no attempt to divert attention from the brutal workaday world. It is three men in a boat, and that boat sails on a sea of release and joy, spreading laughter in its wake. Go see.

Their next show, on which they have started to work, will be called *The History of the United States*. The place will never be the same again.



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Christie's to follow on?

ROWS IN THE book trade are by no means new, but the latest altercation between Drift, the bellicose and eccentric bookhunter, and Christie's, the fashionable auctioneers, has a certain fascination — not least because it involves the extensive library of John Arlott, the voice of English summer who died earlier this year.

Drift, whose annual guide to secondhand bookshops in the British Isles has become required reading for collectors, claims that Christie's substantially underestimated the value of Arlott's books when selling a portion of his library at auction.

Part of the sale, lot nine, was a collection of 68 volumes by the cartoonist Osbert Lancaster signed and dedicated to the cricket commentator, which were expected by Christie's to fetch between £150 and £250. They were, in fact, bought by the leading Bloomsbury dealers Ballantyne and Date for £1,320. Drift claims that after the auction Roger Ballantyne Way said he had been prepared to pay up to £1,750.

"You might think that the experts could get it wrong by a

margin of perhaps 20 per cent," said Drift yesterday, "but the discrepancy between estimates and prices at the Arlott auction was quite ridiculous. They got huge amounts of free publicity and large numbers of the public came to view and bought the catalogue, but I believe the books were catalogued somewhat haphazardly."

Christie's yesterday hit back, saying that Drift's claims were entirely without foundation. This was supported by Arlott's widow, Pat, who expressed mild surprise at the Drift's complaints. Speaking from her house in Alderney, she said: "I am very happy with the auction and I think Christie's did a good job". Her mild-mannered husband would no doubt be aghast at the furore over his treasured library.

Yesterday, on a tour of Japan, Sir Edward Heath found time to raise a glass of sake to the 21st anniversary of the Commons vote to join the European Community. Meanwhile, his arch rival in the European debate, Baroness Thatcher, had something else to celebrate. After a convivial lunch, she sponsored the arrival in the House of Lords of her great friend and fellow opponent of Maastricht, Nicholas Ridley.



DIARY

Peak condition

BARELY able to suppress his glee at the chaos in the Tory party, John Smith was in ebullient form at the Groucho Club in Soho on Tuesday night for the launch of Ben Pimlott's new biography, *Harold Wilson*.

Smith, who is harbouring hopes of becoming prime minister before the New Year, was able to laugh at previous setbacks in his career. "In February 1974, Harold offered me a job in the government which I turned down," reveals Smith, who was surprised when Wilson offered him a post in the energy department after the election of October 1974. "I told him I thought I had blown my chances six months earlier, but he said he was only interested in people who said no, and added: 'The post was only Solicitor General for Scotland.'"

Smith, who raised a glass to

the absent Lord Wilson along with Lord Callaghan, Roy Hattersley, Susan Crosland and the Pinters, has just bagged his 100th Munro peak in Scotland. "I had hoped to scale it by the last election, but perhaps I have made it just in time for the next one," he says.

Yellow peril

JOHN MAJOR, who is believed to have considered appointing a minister for banana skins, may soon need a minister for bananas. The fruit has now become involved the row over Europe. As if he did not have enough on his plate already, the prime minister is being berated by a group of MPs over the threat posed by the EC to the Caribbean banana.

The MPs fear that the Caribbean banana, a smaller and more expensive variety than its rivals from Latin America, will

be swamped by cheaper imports when the single European market comes into force next year.

A concerned Paul Channon joined MPs Bowen Wells, Gwyneth Dunwoody, Diane Abbott and Bernie Grant at a lunch yesterday organised by the Caribbean Banana Exporters' Association. Questions are being tabled in

Is there a banana split in the house?

GED

the Commons urging ministers who embrace free trade to think again about the banana exports from Windward Islands, Jamaica, Belize and Surinam.

Channon, a former Trade and Industry Secretary, insists it is a serious consideration in the debate about Europe. "These tiny little islands depend almost entirely for their economic survival on tourism and bananas."

As for himself, "I am not that fond of bananas," he says.

Show of resistance

A PROPHET is not without honour, as Sir Richard Body will testify, save in his own country. Sir Richard, joint president of the Campaign for an Independent Britain, fervent anti-federalist and scourge of the Tory whips, has won praise from none other than Jacques Delors. Sir Richard is appearing in the exhibition "Europeans of Conscience", which is opening today in the Gallerie Edgar Faure in Paris.

In the exhibition notes, Delors enthuses about the 111 featured Europeans. "They represent the talents and conscience of Europe," he says. "The richness of our Europe is displayed in their faces." Sir Richard, who admits to being surprised and rather flattered by his inclusion, says: "I think it shows that my theories on Europe are better understood on the Continent than in this country. I am for a Europe of 40 separate countries." He will not be making a special trip to Paris to see the exhibition. "I think is going to Prague and then coming to London next year. The photograph they are using is truly dreadful."

EXIT. PUR



GERMANY DECEIVES ITSELF

Chancellor Kohl must tell the economic truth

For the past two years, the whole of Europe has paid dearly for the failure of Germany, its pivotal economic power, to put unification on a sound financial footing. In the euphoria of 1990 Chancellor Kohl could have won support for an austerity appeal to finance the reconstruction of the eastern Länder. Instead, he insisted that Germany could pay for nationhood without belt-tightening. Now, when the need for tough policies is all too clear, the political task is much harder. But if he flinches, the costs of cowardice will be high.

The most pressing need is to abandon the target, set in 1991, of equal wages in eastern and western Germany by 1996. This well-meant policy has been an economic disaster for east Germans. It has deterred investment in eastern Germany, where productivity does not begin to match the western part of the country, and generated massive unemployment, conservatively estimated by Germany's five leading economic institutes this week at a quarter of the workforce. If the aim was to stem east-west migration in search of higher pay, it is happening anyway, in search of jobs. Western German unions pushed for wage convergence, but their members are now being asked to accept lower pay and higher taxes to pay for the unemployment thus created. The goal must be deferred.

For Germany as a whole, the priority is not tax increases but a tighter fiscal policy, beginning with a frontal assault on the economy's supply side. Few foreign admirers of the German miracle realise how massively the uneconomic parts of the economy are subsidised by the state. The bill for propping up dying industries — coal, steel and agriculture — comes to around 40 per cent of public spending. Here is massive scope for the public-sector cuts Germany needs. Such action needs to be accompanied by an equally bold programme of privatisation and deregulation, disentangling a morass of labour laws as well as the absurdly restrictive laws limiting shop opening hours.

These cuts in public spending are imperative. The Bundesbank, which is right to be worried about German inflation, will not otherwise loosen its monetary policy more than marginally. Industrial orders are down for the sixth consecutive month in western Germany and thousands of redundancies have been announced or are in the pipeline. Independent forecasts this week expect

growth of only 0.5 per cent next year even if wage demands are modest and the Bundesbank loosens the reins.

Instead of cutting spending in western Germany, the German government has raised public-sector deficits to around 6 per cent of GDP, to pay for transfers of money to the east which this year are estimated at DM163 billion. Some of that has gone into much needed investment in infrastructure; too much has been spent on unemployment and social benefits and wage subsidies, fuelling an inflationary consumer boom in the east.

The bill for its leaders' failure of vision is now coming home to Germany as well as its neighbours. Inflation, economic stagnation and looming recession are increasing support for extreme right-wing parties. Herr Kohl, while prepared to lecture his countrymen on the folly of living beyond their means, as he did this week at the Christian Democratic Union congress, still shrinks from radical solutions.

He has announced that taxes would have to rise in 1995. And he even hinted that the date might have to be brought forward under the "solidarity talks" between the federal and local governments, employers, unions and opposition parties bear fruit by the end of the year. Yesterday, he nervously withdrew this threat, under fire from both the CDU's coalition partners as well as the opposition.

His opponents argue, with reason, that raising taxes in a recession would be counterproductive. But that leaves the Chancellor pinning his hopes on union agreement to wage restraint and welfare cuts, on cuts in public spending about which he remains resolutely vague, and on an easing of monetary policy by the Bundesbank. Even if, which is far from certain, the solidarity talks reach agreement, this is tinkering with the margins. Instead, the government needs to rethink both the strategy for dealing with unification, and Germany's structural rigidities.

Older Germans have a pathological fear of recession; younger Germans have never encountered it. The fabled German consensus is faltering. Herr Kohl has a legendary reputation for reading his country's pulse, but a no less marked reputation for blurring decisions and waiting for agreement to emerge. His instincts should tell him that the time for radicalism has come.

INDECENT ANOMALY

The rape of men should be punished more seriously

It is the crime that dares not speak its name. Indeed its commonly used name, male rape, is not even a recognised offence. A spate of such attacks has recently been reported in London, and attention concentrated on a legal anomaly: a woman can be raped, while a man cannot. This discrimination should no longer be accepted.

A violent sexual assault is as terrifying for a man as it is for a woman. Both sexes feel defiled, demeaned and humiliated by the attack. Both often feel powerless in the face of actual or threatened violence. For both, the rape can be as traumatic emotionally as physically and lead to long-term psychological and sexual problems.

The danger of pregnancy is peculiar to women. But the risk of contracting AIDS is probably higher for men. Male victims suffer too from society's prejudices about male rape. If they are heterosexual, they fear people will assume that they are homosexual. If they are homosexual, they fear people will say they were asking for it. Whatever their sexual orientation, they can feel angry and ashamed that they were not "man" enough to defend themselves. And many men, like women, worry that their story simply will not be believed. Research studies find that roughly one male rape out of ten is reported to the police.

Earlier this year, the anonymity granted to female rape victims in court was extended to men as well. That should remove one obstacle to reporting. The police too are just starting to equip themselves better to deal with the crime. The Metropolitan Police has set up the first pilot project in the country, in which 26 officers have been trained as "chaperones" to gain victims' trust. Male victims are now interviewed in the less intimidating "rape suites" already used for female victims. But this is only a tiny step, and it is time that other forces followed the Met's example.

Attitudes towards male rape are probably no more advanced than they were towards female victims 20 years ago. And in one sense it is worse for men because there is no offence of male rape in law. Since "rape" is defined as penile penetration of the vagina, male rape is still categorised as either non-consensual buggery or indecent assault. The maximum sentence is just ten years; for female rape, it is life imprisonment.

Yesterday, Harry Cohen, Labour MP for Leyton, introduced a ten-minute-rule bill which, among other provisions, attempted to create a new crime of male rape. The bill has no chance of becoming law on its own. Mr Cohen needs government support. That support ought to be readily forthcoming.

EXIT, PURSUED BY NIKON

Be grateful for an audience that is not throwing eggs

Sir Alec Guinness has decided never to act in the West End again because he hates the blank faces of the uncomprehending tourists in the audience. One of the most subtle and elusive actors of this generation says: "I'd rather go to the provinces where they still speak English and not Japanese." The great man's decision is a matter for him. But for once he misunderstands his theatre.

Performances in semi-comprehended foreign languages are a part of the London theatre experience that is by no means confined to the Japanese. Examples range from Noh plays to almost everything that appears at the Royal Opera House. Norway's musical export, *Which Witch*, has had everything about it knocked by the critics, apart from the knees of the chorus girls, where God anticipated them. But if it were played in Norwegian, and performed at Covent Garden, we should safely predict a thundering success. It is snobbish to assume that Japanese tourists are less quick at picking up the nuances of an alien culture than Londoners.

In any case, since they first strutted the boards, actors have grumbled about the deficiencies of their audience. Their ideal audience is intelligent, with a quick wit, educated, and a bit drunk, with hands like dustbin lids and laughter like a clap of thunder, and a sudden hush for moments of high emotion. But it has never existed.

The history of the theatre is thickly glossed with uncomprehending audiences, from Hamlet declaring that the groundlings of his time were capable of understanding nothing but dumb shows and noise, to Sarah Bernhard's terribly performance of Cleopatra in Victorian London. That was when an elderly member of her audience said to her companion: "How different, how very different from the home life of our own dear Queen."

The problem of Japanese audiences goes back to the beginning of theatre. When Aristophanes put on his *Clouds* in 423 BC, the theatre was packed with foreign tourists because of the festival. They did not recognise the mask worn by the actor impersonating Socrates, and there was a hubbub of questions in the contemporary equivalent to Japanese. Socrates, who was sitting in the front, stood up, and remained standing for the rest of the performance.

Those that live to please must please to live, and be grateful for bums of all kinds on seats in these hard times, when many theatres in the West End are either dark or dim with banality. After royal pageantry and heritage history, the theatre is the biggest attraction that brings tourists to London. Performing artists must perform, as they have always had to, for an audience that includes fish of all kinds from sardines to whales and even tempura.

Closing the ranks behind Major

From Sir Peter Emery, MP for Honiton (Conservative) and others

Sir, There are a number of Conservative members of Parliament whose actions and statements undermine the position and the policy of the government and the standing of the prime minister. This plays directly into the hands of the Opposition and does Great Britain considerable damage, both in Europe and further abroad. We regret this most forcefully. It is essential that this criticism must not go unanswered because it does not represent 90 per cent of Conservative members in Parliament, whose views in a democratic party should ensure full support for the prime minister. Positively we are of the opinion that we have in John Major the best person as prime minister of our country. The Conservative parliamentary party will do well to reflect the level of support shown to Mr Major at the party conference and strengthen his leadership, which undoubtedly won the 1992 general election for the Conservative party.

Yours faithfully,
PETER EMERY,
ROBERT ADLEY, MICHAEL ALISON,
MICHAEL ANCRAM,
PETER BOTTOMLEY,
A. BOWDEN, PAUL CHANNON,
MICHAEL COLVIN,
ANTHONY GRANT,
MICHAEL GRYLLS, ROBERT HICKS,
TERENCE HIGGINS, JAMES HILL,
DAVID HOWELL,
GEOFFREY JOHNSON SMITH,
M. JOPLING, TOM KING,
JILL KITCHETT, DAVID MADEL,
MICHAEL MARSHALL,
CRANLEY ONSLOW,
RICHARD PAGE,
GEOFFREY PATTIE, TIM RENTON,
GILES SHAW, JAMES SPICER,
JAIN SPROAT,
PETER TEMPLE-MORRIS,
DONALD THOMPSON,
NEVILLE TROTTER, RAY WHITNEY,
MARK WOLFSON,
House of Commons,
October 28.

Leaks from the 1922

From Lord Boardman

Sir, When I was a member of the executive of the 1922 committee, some 20 years ago, advice and criticism from that executive were usually conveyed to and discussed privately with the prime minister or other minister relevant to the case raised. Neither the executive nor the members of the 1922 attending such meetings disclosed the proceedings to the media; then, as today, notices of the meetings listed them as "Confidential" and "Secret". Leaks were, if possible, traced and censured.

MPs will, of course, express their own views on many subjects, but I wonder whether members of the executive might, in that capacity, show more restraint. They do not necessarily represent the majority of the 1922.

I fear that the changes over the years may not be good for the Conservative party, the 1922 committee or a Conservative government.

Yours faithfully,
BOARDMAN,
House of Lords,
October 26.

Council tax

From Dr David N. King

Sir, Mr Robin Squire (letter, October 23) explained why the Department of the Environment could not accept regional banding of property prices for the council tax. Such banding, he says, would mean that people in identical houses on opposite sides of a regional boundary would end up paying different amounts of tax for identical local services, a situation for which there is "no satisfactory answer".

If this situation is so unsatisfactory, why has his government allowed for different bands for England, Scotland and Wales, so that people on the English side of the borders will often pay very different amounts from people in identical houses on the Scottish and Welsh sides for identical services?

Yours etc.,
DAVID N. KING,
University of Stirling,
Department of Economics,
Stirling FK9 4LA.

From Mr Bernard L. Baboulene

Sir, Mr Squire is still trotting out the canard of the "unfairness" of the rates to single-adult households when compared to multi-occupation of similar accommodation.

Presumably he thinks it fairer for, say, four people — not necessarily earners, just people — squeezed into a cottage for economy to pay four times as much as the sole occupant of a 30-room mansion. A sole occupant usually wastes space by choice, and should not receive a discount for doing so.

In the poll tax our free-market gurus artificially created a novel commodity, house-room, of which the more you had the less you paid in relation to it. To the extent that the new council tax retains the per head element it perpetuates this absurdity, however muted. Under the rates any lodgers made a notional or actual contribution to them.

Yours faithfully,
B. L. BABOULENE,
10 Richmond Avenue, SW20.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Perceived failings in BBC leadership

From Mr Michael Peacock

Sir, The chairman and vice-chairman of the BBC ask us to accept that all is well at Broadcasting House (letter, October 24); but recent events have made even those well disposed towards the corporation doubt that this can be so.

When the director general in effect tells the press that his chairman is not up to the job (report, October 21) this is seen as yet another symptom of a serious leadership vacuum at the top of the BBC and of a general malaise affecting both its governance and management.

To give just two topical examples: earlier this year, the television service spent £20 million twice over by mistake (report, September 28) and harsh economies are in hand to recover the position. And LWT's Greg Dyke was right to chastise the BBC at the Royal Television Society symposium on October 20 for paying £2.4 million for a Hollywood box office failure like *Dick Tracy*. In my experience the BBC frequently pays over the odds for its feature films. ITV has to earn its keep in a commercial market.

When feature-film packages costing tens of millions come before the BBC governors for approval their scrutiny can be only nominal. I know of at least one case where there were congratulations all round for the management's having "won" a deal at a record price when there was no one bidding against the BBC.

Studio closure

From Ms Juliet Ace and others

Sir, In 1986 the BBC invested nearly £1 million in its music and radio drama studio, Christchurch, Bristol. The BBC now proposes to close it, as yet another of its short-sighted economic policies (report, September 19).

The studio has fostered many prize-winning writers and has a special place in the culture of the South West, an area which Michael Checkland and his accountants seem to consider unworthy of their limited beneficence. The region's writers, actors and directors as well as its theatres, universities and drama schools all contribute

directly to the work of the studio, which nurtures their work in return.

BBC radio drama is the best in the world. This studio is arguably the best in the world for producing drama. We deplore the decision to destroy it and shift staff to an inadequate studio in Birmingham. We urge the governors and their appointees to change their minds.

Yours faithfully,
JULIET ACE, ALAN AYCKBOURN,
DAVID CREGAN, PETER TERSON,
JONATHAN SMITH,
PETER TINNISWOOD,
28 Randolph Street,
Camden Town, NW1,
October 27.

Jubilee line

From Mr Osman Sreeter

Sir, Where Mr Wyndham Thomas (letter, October 27) asserts that "London Underground's far more urgent need is for investment in the system as it is", he is quite simply wrong — as all of us in south London would confirm.

London Underground's coverage of London is not complete. North Londoners have a choice of five east-west tube lines; south Londoners have none at all.

The Jubilee line would also greatly

relieve road congestion in east London. That is why leaders of the councils of Greenwich, Lewisham, Newham, Southwark and Tower Hamlets are jointly appealing for completion.

None of these politicians is likely to be interested merely in bailing out "the owners in Docklands of speculative projects which should never have been started". Labour or Liberal Democrat, they want to help their residents. And they want the Jubilee line for that reason.

Yours faithfully,
OSMAN STREETER,
16 Upstall Street, Camberwell, SE5.

Letting down lightly

From Mr Lionel Briggs

Sir, Sir Peter Imbert, the Metropolitan Police commissioner, said (Valerie Grove interview, October 16) that "Middle Englanders" wanted safety for property and person, yet "may be content to break the law" in some instances, including certain motoring offences.

In my view the middle classes are not prepared to overlook death or serious injury caused to a third party by drunken or reckless driving, driving without insurance, MOT certificate or Excise licence, taking and driving away a motor vehicle, or inconsiderate parking. But I see no point in pursuing most other offences where the police commitment in time and expense may be substantial.

I write as a chartered insurer who has dealt with many serious motor claims over the past 30 years, and I am satisfied that the limitation I suggest would be adequate to deal with all serious matters arising out of the use of a motor vehicle on the road.

Yours faithfully,
LIONEL BRIGGS,
19 Highlands Road,
Barton-on-Sea, Hampshire.

Ties that bind

From Mr Gordon Douglas

Sir, I think that it was unforgivable of Mr Lee (letter, October 23) to accuse a Japanese businessman wearing the tie of the Royal Marines. It is likely that a Japanese would regard such an approach as a gross insult, whatever his outward reason.

No doubt the tie had been purchased from a store, with no idea of its significance. Many stores display regimental ties with no reference to their origin.

Yours faithfully,
GORDON DOUGLAS,
3 Warren Mill Cottages,
Belford, Northumberland.

From Mrs Eileen Stammers-Smith

Sir, I wonder which is the smallest group to wear a distinctive tie. My husband taught me that a tie should be both elegant and significant, and he wore his St John's Archery Club tie or his Ceylon Planners' Rifles tie with pride.

In the 1960s, when the statutory male art masters and a couple of music masters in the otherwise female

staff of the Ladies' College, Cheltenham, began to be augmented by teachers of classics, mathematics and modern languages, the art master designed a tie for them to wear on formal college occasions, with a motif based on the tricycle that belonged to Miss Beale, headmistress at the turn of the century.

In those days, fewer than a dozen masters were eligible to wear this handsome tie; perhaps there are more members of this exclusive club now.

Yours sincerely,
EILEEN STAMMERS-SMITH,
8 Mavor Close,
Old Woodstock, Oxfordshire.

From Dr K. A. Hillard

Sir, I well remember a brief *Goon Show* exchange. Moriarty meets Eccles: "Hello Eccles, I see you are wearing a Cambridge tie. What were you doing at Cambridge?" "Buying a tie".

Yours faithfully,
K. A. HILLARD,
North Chase, Saltbox Road,
Worplesdon, Guildford, Surrey.

'Times' blueprint for UK recovery

From Sir Christopher Cockerell, FRSE

Sir, Mary Ann Sieghart and Anatole Kaletsky ("A blueprint for Britain's future", October 22) and your leading article that day failed to identify what has to be done to get, long-term, our balance of payments out of the red. The stimulus to the economy which would result from the measures recommended by *The Times* may buy time at a cost, but will not prevent our continuing slow decline in the export league.

The fundamental problem is not short-term changes in our economy, but why the quality of our goods has fallen so that British people prefer foreign imports, and what steps to take to improve our designs so that they choose British goods. The following points seem relevant:

1. Why go into industry when people in industry rather than civil servants and others are laid off if there is a slump?

2. The education of our engineers and scientists is so narrow that they are unfitted for positions of influence.

3. The engineering profession is the lowest paid of all the professions, with the result that industry can neither attract nor hold its share of bright young people.

4. In general it is not possible to earn a reasonable living as a designer in this country.

5. Inventors who produce the seed corn of prosperity cannot themselves make a proper living either.

6. The small wealth-producing section of our society has to pay for the inflation-proofed pensions enjoyed by many sections of the non-wealth producing.

7. Since engineers receive such a narrow education, most do not become managing directors, board members and chairmen of engineering firms. The ones that do know nothing about design.

8. The educational system of this country splits us up into the arts and the sciences, so that nearly all of us are only half-educated and one side is unable to talk to the other.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER COCKERELL,
16 Prospect Place,
Hythe, Southampton, Hampshire,
October 23.

From Mr Peter V. Facey

Sir, You are right to identify late payment of bills as a major weakness. It allows large failing companies to transfer their failure to smaller well-managed firms. But your solution, of a statutory right to charge interest at penal rates, will not work.

Late payers usually claim that the contract has not been properly done. Small firms are frightened to annoy by litigation the clients upon whom they depend. If they cannot collect the sums owing, they will not be able to collect the interest either.

I suggest we should create a new offence of late payment and give the VAT inspectorate power to receive complaints in confidence. A few well-publicised successful prosecutions would end this evil.

Yours faithfully,
P. V. FACEY,
134 Sandymurst Lane,
Ashford, Kent.

From Mr Frank H. Dixon

Sir, Your "blueprint for Britain's future" omitted a key area which, at no cost to the Treasury, can have a profound effect on economic recovery. Recent changes in development control under the latest Town and Country Planning Act are hampering significant private-sector investment in major innovative schemes.

In 1980, the Thatcher government introduced a positive presumption in favour of development and authorities were asked to pick out for priority handling applications which would contribute most to the national economy.

Over the past two years that situation has been seriously eroded. There is no longer a presumption in favour of development. I have evidence that a number of British blue-chip industrial concerns have recently sought to provide purpose-built facilities near the centre of their markets to aid efficiency and protect jobs.

They have been prevented from doing so by current planning dogma. In some cases the secretary of state for the environment has over-ruled the positive recommendations of his own planning inspectorate.

Yours faithfully,
F. H. DIXON,
The Estate Office,
Breach House,
Cholsey, Oxfordshire.

From Mr R. L. Reece

Sir, Leaving aside the morality of money speculation, I propose Mr G. Soros ("The man who broke the Bank of England", October 26) be appointed Chancellor of the Exchequer. He seems to have a better understanding of international finance and economics than the present incumbent.

Yours faithfully,
R. L. REECE,
16 Thorowley Close, Pitsea, Essex.

Business letters, page 29

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

Sports letters, page 43

NEWS

Ministers shirk union battle

The government's bid to shore up backbench nerves has continued with the postponement of a bitterly-contested Bill which would further curtail union power. Ministers fear that a battle with the unions could be fatal given the certain row over forthcoming public spending cuts. Pages 1, 2

Labour decided last night to oppose the government in next week's Maastricht vote, whatever form the Commons motion takes. The move adds urgency to John Major's campaign to bring Tory rebels to heel. Pages 1, 2, 20

Ambulance chief resigns over delays

The head of London's ambulance service has resigned following allegations that the failure of a computerised call-out system may have contributed to up to 20 deaths. Page 1

Crime boom

Recorded crime rose 11 per cent to 5.5 million offences in the 12 months to July but the rate of increase is apparently slowing, according to Home Office figures published yesterday. Page 5

Cult talk

What is culture, and who is it for? The great and the good in British arts and broadcasting conferred in Brighton, and after almost two hours Professor Christopher Frayling, of the Royal College of Art, summed up: "We haven't come up with any answers, but you never do when you start with such a cosmic question." Page 6

Travel speed-up

Sixty high-speed trains a day will run between London, Paris and Brussels through the Channel tunnel when international rail services are launched in 1994, offering journey times between London and Paris of three hours. Page 6

Nuclear threat

The safety of British nuclear weapons cannot be guaranteed, a report today asserts. Despite defence ministry assurances that the chance of an accidental detonation is extremely remote, the report says Britain has failed to take full account of a US enquiry revealing the dangers. Page 9

Village fears

Parish councillors in a quiet corner of Hertfordshire are worried

Nudists threatened with beach ban

National Trust members are calling for a ban on nudists at Britain's biggest nudist beach, claiming that indecent behaviour has increased and children are at risk. Studland Bay in Dorset has four miles of fine sand, with about half a mile used by nudists. At the height of the summer, up to 7,000 naked bodies take the air. Page 6

that their village could become the scene of a clash of cultures after the arrival of several thousand Hasidic Jews, tired of life in London, who plan to buy about 300 housing plots near Shenley. Page 12

Yeltsin hits back

President Yeltsin ordered the dissolution of a 5,000-strong armed guard controlled by his conservative rival, Russian Khasbulatov, the parliamentary chairman, and considered to be the private army of anti-reform figures. Page 15

Peking dispute

Britain and China simultaneously released transcripts of secret correspondence on Hong Kong which is said by Peking to prove that proposals by the governor, Chris Patten, for the 1995 elections break a promise by Britain to limit democracy in the territory. Page 17

Zia claim

Experts told a judicial enquiry into the plane crash that killed General Zia-ul-Haq, the former Pakistani president, that the aircraft was brought down by two explosions on board. Page 17

Campaign blitz

President Bush and Governor Clinton duelled in separate television appearances and out on the campaign trail over the state of the economy as Ross Perot completed plans for the costliest television advertising blitz in US political history. Page 16



Dr Michel Garretta, the transfusion official in an Aids case, escorted by Boston police before flying to jail in France. Report, page 15

Going up: Wellcome, the pharmaceuticals group, announced pre-tax profits for the year to August 29 of £505 million (£403 million). A final dividend of 9p (7p) makes a total of 13p (10p). Page 25

Going down: Only 14 of British Coal's 51 deep mines will have a long-term future under new contracts being negotiated with the electricity generating industry, the chairman of British Coal, Neil Clarke, told a Commons committee, raising the prospect of more closures and job losses. Page 25

Winning side: When the winners and losers in the battle of Britain's high streets come to be recorded, Marks & Spencer is confident about the side it will be listed on. In the darkest hours of the recession, M&S has reported higher profits and higher sales. Page 25

Rugby: South Africa's four-match tour of England next month was cleared after the ANC called on anti-apartheid activists not to campaign for cancellation. Page 48

Football: Sunderland expect a large majority of supporters to vote in favour of the club's leaving Roker Park for a new ground five miles away. It will be England's biggest club stadium. Page 46

Fishing: A British record is to be claimed for a 46lb pike, caught at Langdefford, near Pontypool. It beats by 10oz the mark established by Gareth Edwards, former Welsh rugby union international. Page 48

Unhappy note: Most people believe that pop groups go deaf as a result of their music, but recent research has shown that orchestral players are in even greater danger of hearing defects. Page 19

Dear Dad: Beneath the happy facade, doubts lurk for the family man who ponders the imponderable: are these children really mine? Page 19

Here is the news: Ever since Paul Julius Reuter, founder of the news agency, used pigeon post in 1850, Reuters has proved adept at exploiting new ways of communicating. A special report. Pages 39 to 41



Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, was grilled by MPs after a report showed a tobacco advertising ban could cut smoking by 7 per cent. Page 14

Film: New releases include Neil Jordan's *The Crying Game*, David Mamet's *Glengarry Glen Ross*, Boomerang's *Unlawful Entry*, Mon Pére Ce Héros. Page 33

Theatre: Punjabi precursor of the Romeo/Juliet story, *Heer Ranjha*, at Theatre Royal, Stratford East; *Ser III*, a one-woman look at romance, BAC Battersea. Page 34

Dances: *Don Juan*, Jean Claude Gallotti's version with an aging rock star as the title role, at the Royal Opera. Page 34

Literature: biennial Poetry International festival at London's South Bank Centre; *Secret Agent*, new BBC 2 serial of Conrad's novel too reverential. Page 35



Alessandra Mussolini, granddaughter of the Fascist dictator, was barred from holding a rally in Naples to commemorate the 1922 March on Rome. Page 15

Tonight's choice

BBC 1's *Question Time* breaks out of its obsession with "balance" and flies to Washington for a pre-American election programme. Elsewhere, Rumpole is back (ITV) and the *Present Imperfect* series (BBC 2) goes slumming at the declining roadside cafe. Page 47

Germany's failure

The bill for its leaders' failure of vision is now coming home to Germany as well as its neighbours, in the form of inflation, economic stagnation in the country's east, looming recession in the west and a steady increase in support for extreme right wing parties. Page 21

Indecent anomaly

It is the crime that dares not speak its name. Indeed its commonly used name, male rape, is not even a recognised offence. A woman can be raped, while a man cannot. This discrimination should no longer be accepted. Page 20

Boo, hiss

Sir Alec Guinness has decided never to act in the West End again because he hates the blank faces of the uncomprehending tourists in the audience. For once he misunderstands his theatre. Page 21

BRUCE ANDERSON

Although she was a great prime minister, Margaret Thatcher left John Major with an accused inheritance. If his premiership is now embattled, it is because of the difficulties he has encountered in clearing up her mess. Page 20

BERNARD LEVIN

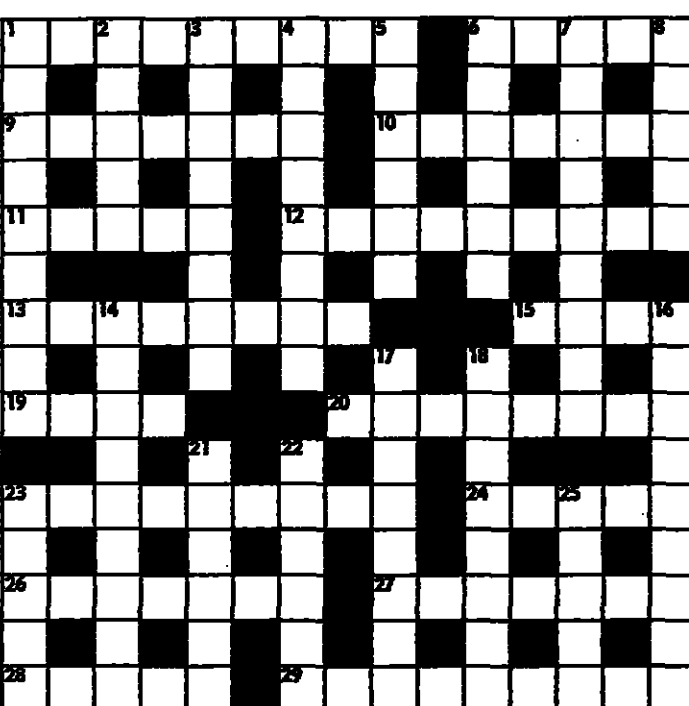
The least funny book ever written, not excluding the autobiography of Leonid Brezhnev is *Fred's Jokes and Their Relation to the Unconscious*. If you don't believe me, try a few examples. Page 20

BRYAN APPLEYARD

Mike Ahearn was an 11-stone weakling, but now he eats ten Shredded Wheat for breakfast, weighs 21 stone and looks like a block of flats made of human tissue. His new name is Warrior and he is a Gladiator. Page 20

(Perot's) thin-skinned style raises some unsettling questions about Perot the possible President. Behaviour during a campaign has always been a key factor by which voters judge candidates. This year is no exception — USA Today

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,062



- ACROSS**
- Wild rebel, reformed in prison (9).
 - The capacity to be happy (7).
 - Said to possess restraint, going round the town (7).
 - Royal Society in trouble? That's not so good (5).
 - Riot in cathedral city as a regular occurrence (9).
 - Leg-pulling results in friction on the road (8).
 - Fearless and outspoken (4).
 - Prescription for the usual condition (4).
 - Race about in show of affection to get support (8).
 - Italian city square in stylish environment of colour (9).
 - Very often found in scores (5).
 - Take off from the limit at emergency location (7).
- DOWN**
- Eastern king, accepting no queen (7).
 - Station-keeping, I presume (5).
 - State support for strikers keeps new German city in recession (9).
 - Retreat on the river in a remote place... (9).
 - ... private hotel — super but drink prohibited (5).
 - Weather-men caught in sleet flurry (8).
 - Foreign outdoor scene (8).
 - Take a turn for the better as result of visit (4,2).
 - Well-known members of the community (6).
 - In rebellion the European is crazy! (2,3,4).
 - Very good first act of play (5).
 - Regal lies resolved antipathies (9).
 - A lady's line of conversation (9).
 - Stamp, a new one, for the post (8).
 - Pets made wild rush (8).
 - Change of sound causing mutual confusion (6).
 - Enrol at examination (6).
 - Invigorating snack (5).
 - Policies specifying punishments (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,061

CLIMBING FREE
AUTOPSY GRAPHIC
NEWMARKET
DARWINIST RINGS
VSSOI
ACIST TURNABOUT
MEOW
BOWSERITS EASEL
UHNHDT
LEGGED STAIRWELL
AULI
NUGLEAN LIBRARY
KUSSE
ST DRAWBRIDGE

- Clue: A PS/2 is the cutting edge (3,3)**
- Answer: TOP SAW

Concise Crossword, page 48

Scotland will be cool and unsettled with showers, some heavy and wintry. Northern Ireland will have sunny spells with a few showers at first but will cloud over later. Western and central England, and Wales, will be bright and sunny with isolated showers. Eastern parts will be cloudy with heavy and frequent showers. Outlook: Scotland and Northern Ireland can expect rain; England and Wales will be dry and fairly sunny.

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Greater London	7-10	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	No
East Angles	8-11	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	No
West Angles	8-11	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	No
South East	9-12	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	No
West Midlands	7-10	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	No
East Midlands	8-11	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	No
North East	6-9	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	No
North West	6-9	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	No
Yorkshire	7-10	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	No
Derbyshire	7-10	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	No
Leicestershire	7-10	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	No
Nottinghamshire	7-10	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	No
Lincolnshire	7-10	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	No
Cambridgeshire	7-10	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	No
Hampshire	7-10	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	No
Wiltshire	7-10	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	No
Devon	7-10	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	No
Cornwall	7-10	W 10-15	Partly cloudy	No
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For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks

London (within N & S Circles)	731
M4 (M25 to Heathrow)	732
M4 (Heathrow to Maidenhead)	733
M4 (M25 to Maidenhead)	734
M25 (M25 to Heathrow)	735
M25 (M25 to Heathrow)	736

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Angles	741
North West England	742
North East England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 30p per minute (cheap rate) and 40p per minute at all other times.

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BUSINESS TODAY

Ford

THE POUND

STOCK MARKET

CURRENCY RATES

FINANCIAL PRICES

**BUSINESS 25-31**

Anatole Kaletsky
on the sins of
Major and Lamont

**ARTS 35-37**

Why poetry will
soon be at a
venue near you

**SPORT 43-48**

Montgomerie's
last chance
for 1992 success

ACCOUNTANCY
ON
THURSDAY
Page 38

THE TIMES 2

THURSDAY OCTOBER 29 1992

BUSINESS TODAY**BUMPY RIDE**

Ford plunged deep into the red, hit by heavy losses in its British operations, including a \$100 million deficit at Jaguar
Page 26

NO RESPITE

Civil engineers gave warning that there would be no let-up in the decline of workload and job losses in the next 12 months
Page 27

WADING IN

Gerald Ronson's Heron International today presents debt restructuring plans to creditors
Page 27

BCCI BLUES

Accountants were not alone in failing to communicate doubts about BCCI, writes Robert Bruce
Page 32

Power contracts would leave just 14 pits open

By ROSS TIEMAN

ONLY 14 of British Coal's 51 deep mines will have a viable long-term future under new contracts being negotiated with the electricity generating industry, Neil Clarke, the chairman of British Coal, said yesterday.

His evidence, to the Commons trade and industry select committee, raised the prospect of seven further closures and several thousand more job losses beyond the plans to shut 31 pits, with the loss of 30,000 jobs, now being investigated by the committee.

Mr Clarke said that "only a radical transformation of the present market could affect the prospects of the collieries earmarked for closure" under the October 13 announcement.

He said he had repeatedly warned ministers and their officials, ever since he was appointed chairman in March 1991, that the construction of gas-fired power stations would reduce the market for coal. But he added that "perhaps the effect of the decisions to grant licences for

Coal's future looked even bleaker when Neil Clarke told MPs seven more pits could shut

gas generation were not fully understood."

The closure announcement this month should have come as a surprise to nobody, Mr Clarke said. British Coal had hoped to conduct a phased closure programme, but had been prevented from doing so by delays in signing new contracts with PowerGen and National Power, the two power companies, which buy 80 per cent of its output.

Kevan Hunt, British Coal's employee relations director, said there had also been intense negotiations with ministers, without success, for a 30 per cent increase in the level of redundancy payments to miners. Under the present scheme, the maximum payable is £37,000. But Mr Clarke said British Coal was

aware that "the prospects, particularly for people in areas like the North East, of getting another job are very remote".

Mr Clarke said British Coal had arrived at its pit closure announcement after a series of extremely detailed reviews. During talks over future buying, the generators had made clear that their demand for coal would decline sharply as new power stations, burning natural gas, come on stream. The select committee will examine the economic logic of that later.

Mr Clarke said that unless the opportunities for coal in the generating market were improved, sales would fall progressively until the end of the five-year contract.

Andrew Horsler, British Coal's director general of marketing, told the committee that gas fired plants under construction would displace 8.9 million tonnes of coal a year. Nuclear Electric's heavily subsidised first generation Magnox reactors, which have reached or passed their 30-year design lives but are continuing in operation, substituted for 8 million tonnes of coal a year. The Sizewell plant, which starts up in 1994, would squeeze out another 3 million tonnes. Subsidised French nuclear power, imported through a cable link, already displaces 6 million tonnes of coal. In addition, imports account for a further 7-8 million tonnes of fuel sold.

While some imported coal costs about £1 a gigajoule, present British Coal production costs average £1.60 a gigajoule. In preparing closures, pits had been evaluated for their ability to produce coal at below £1.30 a gigajoule, he said. On this basis, 14 pits, including the five mines in the Selby complex in Yorkshire and the soon-to-be completed £400 million Asfordby mine, had a secure future. Eleven more pits came into a marginal category.

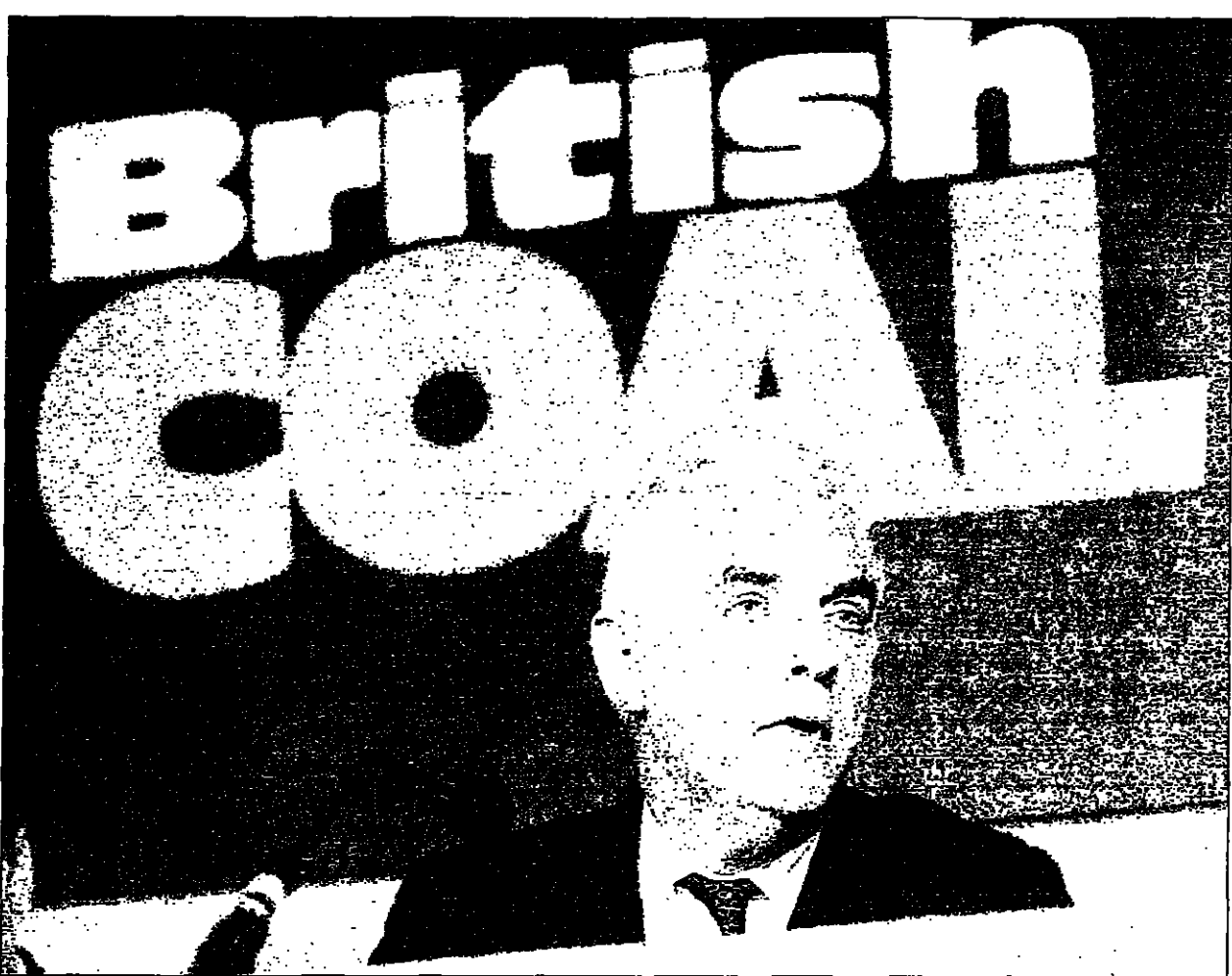
Miners tell High Court of 'consultation charade'

CONSULTATION over the planned closure of ten collieries in danger of becoming a "charade", a High Court judge heard yesterday. The National Union of Miners and Nacods, the pit deputies' union, accused British Coal, which has halted production during the 90-day consultation period, of pursuing policies that would ensure collieries closed, whatever the outcome of the talks.

John Hendy QC, for the unions, told Mr Justice Kennedy that the failure to work the pits as normal was threatening to make them unworkable in the future. He said

British Coal was also reported to be inducing miners to leave the industry before the consultations were completed by offering better redundancy terms than those that would be offered to workers awaiting the outcome of the talks.

Mr Hendy was opposing a British Coal request for an adjournment of the unions' application, due to be heard today, for an order forcing British Coal to continue production during consultation. But the judge said British Coal had had insufficient time to respond to the unions' allegations. He postponed the application until Tuesday.



Costly delays: Neil Clarke said the time taken to negotiate contracts with generators ruled out a phased closure of pits

Accountants at loggerheads

By NEIL BENNETT

THE Accounting Standards Board has split over the publication of FRS 3, its new financial reporting standard, as one of its members attacked the rules and said that they will produce misleading profit and earnings figures for many of Britain's largest companies.

Robert Bradfield, the head of research at Cazenove & Co, the broker, and a member of the nine-member board, voted against FRS 3, the board's new accounting regulations that will radically transform company accounts when they come in to force next June.

The standard was pushed through by the other eight board members but Mr Bradfield has explained his dissent in the back of the standard.

As expected, the board has decided to practically abolish extraordinary items and force

companies to include all the effects of acquisitions and disposals in their pre-tax profits and earnings per share figures.

This will force companies to reveal far more about their financial position than at present, but it will make profit and earnings figures far more volatile and irrelevant in any assessment of a company's underlying trading performance.

Mr Bradfield says in his dissent that he fears the standard "could frequently produce misleading measures of performance".

He argues that the effects of disposals will hide a company's true performance. "Users will be left without a single indicator of whether the entity has done well or badly."

The Institute of Investment Management and Research,

which represents City analysts, is, meanwhile, setting up a sub-committee to discuss the change to earnings per share. It is likely to put pressure on companies to publish a maintainable earnings figure that would ignore the effects of disposals.

David Tweedie, the chairman of the Accounting Standards Board, said that FRS 3 is a landmark in accountancy regulations.

"We are saying to people they must not use the bottom line numbers, but go back to its constituent parts. They have to do more work but accountancy is simple. A single number cannot represent everything that has happened to a company like ICI in a whole year," he said.

Comment, page 29
Accountancy Times, page 32

Wellcome climbs to £505m

By MARTIN WALLER

WELLCOME, the pharmaceuticals group, announced pre-tax profits for the year to August 29 of £504.7 million (£403 million). A final dividend of 9p (7p) makes a total of 13p (10p).

Sales of Zovirax and Retrovir, the company's star performers, were up 24 per cent and 22 per cent respectively. Group gross margins were up from 24.6 per cent to 27.7 per cent, while strong cash flow and a fall in capital spending of £39 million allowed the group to more than double its total cash balances from £195 million to £410 million.

The shares slipped 15p to 985p on the figures.

Tempus, page 28

THE POUND

US dollar 1.5790 (+0.0035)
German mark 2.4317 (+0.0177)
Exchange index 79.0 (+0.4)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1956.5 (-22.0)
FT-SE 100 2650.4 (-19.4)
New York Dow Jones 3243.03 (+7.30)*
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 17068.41 (-116.85)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 8%
3-month Interbank: 7-7 1/4%
3-month eligible bills: 6 1/2-6 3/4%
US: Prime Rate: 6%
Federal Funds: 2 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills: 2.94-2.92%
30-year bonds: 95 1/2-95 1/4%

CURRENCIES

London: New York:
£ \$1.5770
£ DM 2.278
£ Sfr 2.1645
£ FF 220
£ Yen 193.35
£ Index: 79.0
ECU: £0.937742
£ ECU: £1.114175
London: Frankfurt:
£ \$1.5770
£ DM 2.278
£ Sfr 2.1645
£ FF 220
£ Yen 193.35
£ Index: 79.0
ECU: £0.937742
£ ECU: £1.114175
London: Zurich:
£ \$1.5770
£ DM 2.278
£ Sfr 2.1645
£ FF 220
£ Yen 193.35
£ Index: 79.0
ECU: £0.937742
£ ECU: £1.114175

GOLD

London: New York:
£ \$338.20 PM \$338.20
Close: \$338.50-339.00
US: Prime Rate: 6%
New York:
Comex: \$338.95-339.45*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Nov): \$19.65/bbl (\$19.75)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 129.4 September (1987=100)
* Denotes midday trading price

Marks sparkles in the slump

By MATTHEW BOND

WHEN the winners and losers in the battle of Britain's high streets come to be recorded, Marks and Spencer is confident about the side it will be listed on. Yesterday, it gave three reasons why.

For in the darkest hours of the retail recession, M&S has reported higher profits, higher sales (bar Canada), and higher profit margins. The improbable combination of selling expensive food and cheap clothes is clearly a winning one.

Pre-tax profits rose 19.5 per cent to £257 million; sales in Britain advanced to £2.24 billion and operating margins jumped from 8.9 per cent to 9.6 per cent.

Only the slimming down of the group's loss-making Canadian operation resulted in overall turnover falling marginally to £2.64 billion. The interim dividend was increased from 2.1p to 2.2p.

But for every winner there has to be a loser. Yesterday, Sir Richard Greenbury, the chairman, was categorical that M&S's success was not at the expense of the customer. Quite the reverse, in fact. "Almost all our goods, 98.5 per cent, are at the same price or less than last year," he said. Some 25 to 30 per cent of M&S lines in Britain were selling at a lower price than a year ago, he said, "by quite a significant percentage".

Such static prices were not necessarily bad news for M&S suppliers, Sir Richard said, although he agreed that suppliers had joined with the company in making cost-savings and other improvements in efficiency.

If the prices led to higher sales in the shops, that would lead to higher volumes passing through the factories. The



Retail magician: Sir Richard unveiled higher profits, margins and sales

big question is, will they? Sir Richard's reply was cautious. He pointed out that the British market continued to suffer from a lack of consumer confidence and rising unemployment.

"We are encouraged by the early season sales performance resulting from these outstanding values," Sir Richard hoped that the devaluation of sterling would give M&S an advantage over its rivals, through its practice of obtaining so many of its products from Britain.

"We don't source in the UK for philanthropic reasons. We do so for reasons of price and competitiveness. Our UK suppliers do a terrific job for us." Retailers dependent on im-

ported goods will either have to pass on the higher costs to their customers or face a reduction in their trading margins.

The most obvious losers in the company's battle against recession were the 300 head-quarters staff made redundant last year. Sir Richard said that retirements and other voluntary departures had cut the numbers by a further 500.

"The savings have been backstage. We have actually got more people on the sales floor." Further increases in profitability had come from the group's investment in operating and information technology.

"We have got to be the most

efficient, we have to give the best service and give the best value for money we can."

M&S's overseas operations contributed just £12.6 million to group operating profits of £253 million. Brooks Brothers, the American menswear chain acquired for \$750 million in 1988, increased sales to \$154 million and profits to \$2.9 million.

"I am encouraged by the trend, but we have a long way to go on the level of return we achieve. We have been in the UK for 108 years and run a very professional business. We have been in America four years and are still finding our way."

MPs told of policy shifts

By OUR BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE governor of the Bank of England told MPs last night that the government is able to relax monetary policy due to the current absence of inflationary pressures.

Robin Leigh-Pemberton told the Treasury select committee that there has been a shift in economic policy objectives since Black Wednesday when Britain left the exchange-rate mechanism, and a new priority for long-term sustained growth. But he said the Bank would still act quickly to damp down inflation if it began to re-emerge.

Mr Leigh-Pemberton said it should be possible for inflation to stay under the government's 4 per cent limit next year despite devaluation, which the Bank thinks will add two points to headline inflation.

"We are seeing ourselves operating in very changed economic circumstances, but the policy remains the same. We can operate more flexibly because of the complete absence of inflationary pressure," he said.

Mr Leigh-Pemberton also said that he would like to see Britain return to the ERM once evidence emerged that the economy was converging with others in the EC. "The ERM has been beneficial to us and can be again," he said.

The Governor denied he had been offered a general realignment of the ERM prior to Black Wednesday. He defended the Bank's ill-fated attempt to keep sterling in its ERM band but said it was hard to gain any credibility in the foreign exchange markets with a rise in interest rates.

Tempus, page 28

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LONDON: BCCI
29-31 Princes Street, Edinburgh EH2 2BY. Tel: 011 596 1252
Tel: 011 596 1253
Tel: 011 596 1254
Edinburgh: 111-113, Tel: 011 221 6222

Ford plunges to third-quarter loss

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON
IN NEW YORK

FORD plunged back into the red in the third quarter of this year. Jaguar, the luxury car-maker, lost \$100 million and Ford of Britain was described as the biggest factor in \$479 million of European losses.

Worldwide sales of Jaguar dropped by more than a fifth in July, August and September. The carmaker lost \$300 million in the first nine months of the year; Ford described that as slightly better than its performance in the same period last year.

Two weeks ago, Jaguar, which has seen American sales plunge by 64 per cent from

■ Currency chaos added to losses at Ford, with Jaguar losing \$100m and Ford of Britain hard hit.

their 1986 peak, cut prices of cars sold in the US by almost 20 per cent, in the face of fierce price competition from European and Japanese makers of luxury cars.

Ford, second-largest of the US car producers, did not separate out losses from Ford of Britain but said these were included in the \$479 million European deficit — which

compares with a \$560 million loss last time. Nine-month losses in Europe were halved from \$765 million to \$371 million.

Ford was saved from a deeper slide into the red by good results from its finance company. The third-quarter deficit for the American parent company came out at \$159 million, down from a \$574 million loss last year. Sales were up 12 per cent to \$19.3 billion.

The company remains in the black for the first nine months of this year, with a running profit total of \$681 million, against a \$1.78 billion loss last time. Ford earned \$840 million profit in the first half.

Despite a warning of third-quarter red ink issued by Ford two weeks ago, results were worse than expected and the company's shares dropped \$1.5 to \$38.375.

Harold Poling, the chairman, said chaos in the European foreign exchange markets caused significant losses. He gave warning that currency instability would continue to affect the business in the fourth quarter, when Ford could make further losses.

He said: "The uncertainty resulting from the instability in European currency markets has led to lower sales in most of Ford's European markets and will continue to affect the operating environment for the near term."

Ford said the current operating climate in Europe made it impossible to predict the fourth quarter.



Programme trading: Bill Cosby and Gary Gray, his TV grandson in *The Cosby Show*

Cosby in frame for NBC

BILL Cosby, the richest television entertainer in America who gave up making *The Cosby Show* five months ago, now wants to buy the television network that made him famous (Philip Robinson writes). Mr Cosby, 55, with a personal fortune of at least

\$300 million is in talks to buy NBC, known as the peacock network and ranked top station for six consecutive years. *The Cosby Show* kept NBC in that spot for four seasons when it was America's most popular programme.

But since *Cosby* and four

other hit shows ended last spring, NBC's fortunes have weakened. It is now ranked last among the three national networks in key advertiser viewing groups and Hollywood sources say the network faces the prospect of becoming the last stop for television programme makers who prefer the more successful ABC, CBS and Fox Broadcasting, which is owned by The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*.

Of the talks, David Brokaw, Mr Cosby's spokesman, said: "It's for real. It is serious. It's not a rumour." Mr Cosby has become an entertainment legend in America. The son of a navy steward and a maid, he grew up in a poor area of North Philadelphia. He dropped out of university at 25 to tour the comedy nightclub circuit. He was later awarded a doctorate from the same university.

In the early sixties, he won three Emmy awards as co-star with Robert Culp in *I Spy*, the detective series. His wealth grew dramatically in the eighties, when television rules changed and the syndication of his show tripled to more than 330 stations. The fees alone are estimated to have topped \$1 billion.

The cigar-smoking "Coke" has been ranked the richest American entertainer in three of the six years since figures were compiled by *Forbes* magazine. His two-year earnings total for 1991-2 is expected to be almost \$100 million.

Mr Cosby's move to buy NBC is the second approach for the station in two weeks, and others are expected to follow. But the price is high. GE, which bought the station in 1986 as part of a \$6.4 billion bid for RCA Corporation, is believed to want between \$3.5 billion and \$4 billion.

A fortnight ago, it emerged that Barry Diller, former head of Fox Broadcasting, was in talks with GE in a deal that could include a joint bid with David Geffen, the music producer. That promoted renewed speculation that Paramount Pictures would enter the fray, though Martin Davis, Paramount's chairman, is said to think the price is not right.

RECENT ISSUES

Chubb Security	189	-1
Linux Printing Techs (130)	150	-6
Tepnel Diagnostics (120)	178	-1
Trinity (130)	137	...
Vardon (45)	49	...

ICI sells pigments company to Japanese

A DAY ahead of announcing what are expected to be gloomy figures for the third quarter of this year, ICI, Britain's biggest manufacturer, has sold a small business from its specialty chemicals side to Toyo of Japan. No price has been given for the sale of Francolor Pigments, a French maker of ink pigments, but the company has annual sales of just £30 million and the sum involved is thought to be just a few million pounds.

ICI said the sale would allow it to concentrate resources on its core range of pigments for the paint and plastics industries. The company is today expected to unveil profits of not much more than £500 million for the first three quarters of 1992, and make a pessimistic outlook statement. Under plans to demerge the company that are currently under consideration, the specialty side would be part of a separate biosciences company.

Lucas lifts chief's pay

LUCAS Industries, the aerospace and car parts group that has announced 4,000 job cuts worldwide and a slump in annual pre-tax profits from £83 million to £23 million, has awarded Tony Gill, the chairman, an 11 per cent pay rise to take his salary to £369,640. The company's annual report also discloses that David Hankinson, the finance director, who resigned in February, received a £352,000 pay-off. But Tony Edwards, who resigned as managing director earlier this week to become chief executive of Dowty, a subsidiary of TI Group, is unlikely to receive anything.

Goldsmiths trims loss

DESPITE reduced first-half losses, Goldsmiths Group, the jewellery retailer, is passing its interim dividend (1.5p) as depressed consumer confidence continues to restrict customer spending. The company, which operates 117 retail outlets, trimmed pre-tax losses to £1.88 million in the half year to August 28 (£2.09 million). Despite "very difficult" trading conditions, increased market share helped sales rise 11.2 per cent to £18.3 million, with 3.9 per cent like-for-like growth. Loss per share is reduced to 5.74p against a deficit of 6.38p last time.

Durham shares halted

SHARES in DG Durham Group, a loss-making insurance broker quoted on the USM, were suspended at 4p pending an announcement about a possible takeover of the company. A statement said talks had started that might lead to an offer for the company or its major operating subsidiaries. A further announcement, accompanying preliminary results for the period to March 31, would be made "as soon as practicable". Last December, DG Durham announced that it had made a pre-tax loss of £280,000 for the half year to June 30, 1991, and that it had axed its interim dividend.

Northumbrian post

NORTHUMBRIAN Fine Foods, the snacks and biscuits maker, has ended its four month search for a new chief executive. Henry Roberts, 43, has joined from Hughes Food Group, where he held the same position. He replaces Richard Adams, who resigned as chairman and chief executive of the Gateshead-based company in June. Mr Roberts' pay will include a profit-related bonus as well as a bonus related to the company's share price. Pre-tax profits in the year to March 31 at Northumbrian were £55,000 — 41 per cent down.

MMC referral threat

THE acquisition by Schlumberger of Seismographic Services, a British subsidiary of America's Raytheon, will be referred to the monopolies commission unless competition undertakings are obtained. Michael Heseltine, the trade secretary, has asked the Office of Fair Trading to raise concerns about adverse effects on the bore-hole seismics market with Schlumberger. The acquisition, for an undisclosed sum, was announced in July. Objections must be made known to the OFT in writing by November 4.

Bertam interims down

PRE-TAX profits at Bertam Holdings, which has interests ranging from Malaysian oil palm and rubber plantations to property development, fell by 15.3 per cent to £354,000 in the six months to June 30, on turnover of £598,000 (£605,000). There was a downturn in oil palm yields: the fresh fruit bunch crop, however, has improved in the second half. The rubber crop was lower, with rubber areas being phased out and replaced with oil palm. Earnings slip to 1.07p (1.45p) a share. There is again no interim dividend.

Shiloh pegs payout

SHILOH, the diversified company with interests in textiles, healthcare, protective clothing and packaging, is holding the interim dividend at 0.875p a share. The company said faint indications of an improvement in conditions in the spring failed to materialise and trading deteriorated, resulting in a decline in profits from £379,622 before tax to £201,277 in the six months to October 3. Earnings were 2.36p a share, down from 4.48p. Measures have been taken to improve the efficiency of manufacturing units.

Arco seeks listing

ATLANTIC Richfield (Arco), the American oil company, has applied for a London Stock Exchange listing: trading is expected to begin next Monday. Lodewijk M. Cook, chairman and chief executive, said a London listing would make European investors more accessible. Arco's aim was growth in production and income from European operations into the next century. The company, based in Los Angeles, has extensive North Sea interests. It is quoted in Switzerland, and on the New York and Pacific stock exchanges.

Babcock International cuts interim dividend

By COLIN CAMPBELL

BABCOCK International Group, demerged from FKI Babcock in August 1989, has cut its interim dividend after a near-30 per cent profits setback, and says the second half could be equally tough.

Lord King, the chairman, said Babcock, which manages the Rosyth naval dockyard, had been hampered by a worsening order book and "unexpected operating difficulties in certain subsidiaries".

The interim dividend is cut from 1.25p to 1p and pre-tax profits for the half year ended September were £16.6 million

(£23.7 million). Turnover was £400 million (£415 million).

The interims were due on November 24, but were brought forward because of the board's concern over recent volatility in the share price. In May, Babcock shares traded at 69p. Yesterday they closed 2p down at 29½p.

The group said provisions had to be taken against certain under-performing contracts, and that the economic environment had made conditions difficult in all its markets.

Tempos, page 28



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Engineering confidence is 'shot to pieces'

Civil engineers, fearing a further downturn in orders over the next year, want Norman Lamont to sanction increased spending on roads and railways

By Patricia Teahan

CIVIL engineering contractors' confidence has been "shot to pieces" by the lack of any sign of recovery in new orders and by fears that the government plans to cut spending on infrastructure.

According to the October Quarterly Survey of Civil Engineering Workload Trends from the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors, there is no let up in the decline of workload and job losses. Optimism about prospects for the next 12 months is at its lowest level of this recession.

The federation surveyed 145 of its 300 member firms. Those responding represent half the civil engineering work carried out by private contractors; 40 per cent of total civil engineering and 9 per cent of construction output in Britain.

The survey was conducted before John Major's comments last week that the government's policy is to go for growth.

But John Hackett, the federation's director-general, said that even if the prime minister's comments had come sooner, "I doubt whether they could have made up for months of discouraging indications".

The FCEC is lobbying Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, before his Autumn Statement on November 12 to increase spending on roads, railways and infrastructure generally. Mr Hackett said: "Looking 12

months down the road, frankly the universal response is that they [contractors] expect things to go on getting worse."

Optimism has plummeted since the federation's July survey. A balance of minus 62 per cent of respondents expect the trend in new work orders to fall over the next 12 months, not the highest negative balance on record but exceeding the minus 44 per cent balance in January 1991.

A growing number of respondents also expect employment to fall. A balance of minus 49 per cent say numbers of staff on site have fallen, the worst level since the federation's survey started in 1980. A minus 55 per cent balance of respondents said less plant is in use, reflecting the same trend.

Cost pressures have eased as workload shrinks. The balance of those reporting unchanged or lower costs compared with 12 months ago rose from 54 per cent in July to 77 per cent in October. However, although two thirds of respondents said there were no cost pressures, there is no sign of improvement in profit margins. Mr Hackett said: "Our members prices are moving down with the downward trend."

Mr Hackett said the short-term outlook for civil engineers is for a further contraction of both work and jobs over the next few months.



Diminishing role: Gerald Ronson, above, with his wife Gail, might offer to step down as Heron chairman

Heron to present refinancing plan

By Jonathan Prynn

HERON International will today present debt restructuring plans to its banks and bondholders, which are owed £1.4 billion.

The proposals are almost certain to involve a heavy dilution of the influence of Gerald Ronson, the founder of the group, and his family, in the running and control of the company.

Heron hit difficulties in March, when it announced that it needed to reschedule its £1.3 billion of bank and bond debt because of problems in its US property and financial services operations.

Since then, the 80 banks and holders of Heron's 11 outstanding Eurobond issues have grown increasingly anxious because of a further fall in the value of the company's assets, sterling's devaluation and a recent postponement of the meeting of its bankers.

Today's delayed presentation is likely to give the banks most of what they are demanding. Mr Ronson is almost certain to offer to step down as chairman, though he will remain as chief executive. New non-executive directors will also be brought in and the Ronson family holding will be diluted by a swap of some bank debt for equity.

If the banks agree to the proposal, the company must seek approval from the bondholders, who are now owed almost £600 million, compared with £450 million in April, because of the fall in the value of the pound. Representatives of the bondholders have been closely involved in the "long and complex" negotiations between the company and its creditors.

If the restructuring proposals are not accepted, the outlook for the company, which has suffered massive writedowns of its property portfolio and is estimated to have negative net worth of £200 million, look bleak.

At least one holder of Swiss franc bonds has already started legal proceedings against Heron International in an attempt to recover his money, but the move is not thought to represent a serious threat to the restructuring proposals. The bonds are trading at a very deep discount to their face value.

Telegraph profits up by 10%

By Angela Mackay

PRE-TAX profits at Conrad Black's Telegraph Group climbed 10 per cent, to £30.3 million, in the nine months to September 30. They were boosted partly by higher sales and cover price increases for The Daily Telegraph and The Sunday Telegraph.

Joe Cooke, managing director, said advertising revenues were higher, despite a general slump in the industry; as a result, turnover rose from £161 million to £176 million. "We look ahead with apprehension and to the past with gratitude," he said.

Earnings per share eased from 16.5p to 15.7p, depressed by higher tax charges for the group and its affiliate, John Fairfax, the Australian media company in which Telegraph Group holds a 15 per cent stake.

Exceptional costs rose from £1.5 million to £2.2 million after certain costs included in the interim figures as operating costs were restated as exceptional items.

Recession catches up with LVMH

By Wolfgang Münchrad

THE downturn in the economy has caught up with one of France's most prestigious companies. LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton, the luxury goods group, yesterday blamed a fall in third-quarter sales on the strong franc and the general weakness of the French economy.

LVMH shares fell by almost 6 per cent to Fr3,582, down from an opening level of Fr3,801. The company said it expected 1992 profits to be "near that of 1991", while analysts had expected a rise.

With continuing depressed conditions in its main markets the strong franc, which remained closely tied to the mark during the currency turmoil in September, appreciated against the dollar, causing a further setback in LVMH profitability.

Turnover during the nine-month period to September remained static at Fr14.7 billion, while sales actually fell in the third quarter from Fr5.4 billion to Fr5 billion.

UK directors high in pay rise league

By Our Industrial Staff

DIRECTORS of subsidiary companies in the UK received pay rises averaging 7.9 per cent in the year to July 1992, putting them at the top end of the European pay league.

Subsidiary companies are regarded as the best indicator of European pay levels. Portuguese directors received the highest base salary rises, averaging 19.5 per cent; the lowest, of 5.8 per cent, were in France.

According to a survey by Monks Partnership, the pay advisers, after adjusting for the average level of inflation in each country, Portuguese directors still topped the league, with net pay rises of 8.4 per cent. Swiss directors were at the bottom, with just 1.1 per cent.

After allowing for an average 4.3 per cent inflation in the UK, directors received increases averaging 3.6 per cent. The survey forecasts 6 per cent base pay rises for directors of UK subsidiary companies, in line with pay movements for comparable posts in Germany, Austria, Ireland and Switzerland. After tax and adjustments for

the cost of living, Swiss, German and Spanish directors were best paid, with the four Scandinavian countries at the bottom of the league and the UK in the middle.

The survey shows that directors of subsidiary companies in Germany with turnovers of more than £30 million received the equivalent of £42,800 after tax and cost of living adjustments. In the UK, they received £30,400, compared with £20,000 to £22,000 in Denmark, Finland, Sweden and Norway. Most directors, throughout Europe, expect company cars, and 80 per cent of them, except in Switzerland, are given them.

Bonus payments are linked to status in all countries, general managers receiving larger bonuses. Share options are important for all high earners in Europe; the highest incidence of share options occurs in Germany, Ireland, Switzerland and the UK.

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*Excludes the effect of exchange rate movements.
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ECONOMIC VIEW

Progress to more honest accounts

The underlying purpose of new accounting standards, of which FRS3 is the most important yet, is to stop users of accounts being so easily misled. There is a trade-off though. Users of new-style accounts may lose the full certainty of supposedly sustainable earnings figures, but benefit more in the long run from the ensuing re-think. Earnings will be far more volatile. But the ability of management to fudge and obfuscate by cherry picking the accounting treatment that suits best will be much reduced. Meanwhile, conventional investment yardsticks based on earnings per share will be jettisoned or severely impaired.

The tyranny of the price-earnings ratio required the assumption that earnings per share should progress in a steady and predictable way, at least at the normal company. The new principle of showing what used to be extraordinary income and charges in basic pre-tax profit or loss challenges that assumption. Unscrupulous company promoters and finance directors were not, however, responsible for the tyranny of the p/e ratio. Nor were compliant auditors. It was imposed by users, notably fund managers, securities analysts and lenders. By now, it has become a critical building block of portfolio management and a central, if destructive, element in investment culture.

The p/e ratio was supposed to rank companies, round an index average, by their expected rate of earnings growth and risk. If this were combined with the assumption that the stock market had perfect knowledge, then the shares of different companies could be treated as broadly homogenous. As a glance at a typical day's business pages of *The Times* will confirm, the idea that the market has perfect knowledge is as absurd as the costiness of the p/e ratio. Yet many of the largest portfolios are basically constructed this way. The main decisions in such strategic portfolios are about different economies and currencies rather than individual stocks.

If users accept the thrust of the accounting reforms, which imply they have been living in a dream world, they would be forced to pay far more attention to individual companies and their managements. Investment would then become more company-centred. That would be a great triumph for David Tweedie and his supporters.

More likely, existing thinking will be adapted. For instance, fund managers have not been able to rely on the simple p/e ratio for investing in Japanese or German groups, where meaningful consolidation and 100 per cent ownership of subsidiaries have not been as in Britain or America. Instead of adjusting profits and earnings for accounting nasties, as some investment analysts have traditionally done, they could adjust them for the new accounting niceties. Some securities houses will, for instance, try to recreate a "normal" earnings figure for use in the p/e ratio.

A more positive approach would be to use dividend yields rather than earnings as the starting point for total return projections. That would change the way company boards think. More emphasis would be put on dividends to iron out fluctuations in trade and reported profits. The artificial dividend can be just as distorting as artificial requirements for stable reported profits, as insurance companies discovered. The increasing realism forced into dividends during the recession may have produced a solid base for relatively steady progress. During a period of falling interest rates, yields will automatically come into sharper focus. The City has supported accounting reform, albeit sometimes in lukewarm fashion, on the assumption that it would make accounts more honest and thereby remove traps for unwary investors and lenders. In the end, it could affect users' thinking more than the companies directly affected by reform.

Major's gambles will leave diners at Mansion House poker faced

Anatole Kaletsky believes the prime minister has become dangerously addicted to playing games of Call My Bluff

This evening, Norman Lamont will try to restore the government's economic credibility in his Mansion House speech. He need not bother. Neither the financial markets nor the business community are much interested in what Mr Lamont has to say. Mr Lamont is a spent force. He tried to chart a sensible policy for economic recovery after Black Wednesday, but lost the battle for the prime minister's ear. He was humiliated by the Europhiles when they forced him to make a vacuous speech about inflation instead of growth, to the Conservative conference. To judge by the Treasury's astonished denials after John Major's televised economic U-turn, the prime minister did not even bother to inform his Chancellor about the new "policy for growth".

But even if tonight's speech were delivered by the prime minister himself, the markets and business community might no longer care. Despite calls from the City and CBI for a "clear new framework" for economic policy, businessmen and investors will now judge the government by actions, not words. Interest rates will be determined not by any "monetary framework" announced by the Chancellor tonight, but by the imperatives of rapid economic recovery and day-to-day political survival.

And thank goodness for that. A politician's calculation of how to hang on to power may not seem the best basis for economic management, but it is a great deal better than quasi-religious obedience to arbitrary monetary targets, exchange rates, medium term financial strategies and other relics of dogmatic monetarism.

There are, of course, times when monetarism can be a better foundation for economic policy than political opportunism, but this is not one. By the halfway stage of an economic upswing, monetary targets can have an important disciplinary function. They can offer governments cover for the unpopular decisions needed to keep inflation in check. "Our job is to take away the punchbowl just when the party is getting merry," central bankers used to say in the 1960s. Since most economic commentators and central bankers are trend-followers who fall in with the prevailing wisdom, they normally miss the moment when the policy emphasis should be switched from promoting growth to curbing inflation.

Today, however, a bit of monetary high jinx can do no harm and that is certainly in store, judging by the Dutch auction on interest rates that broke out last week after Mr Major's



U-turn. Many of the former guardians of anti-inflationary virtue who were calling for 12 per cent interest rates two months ago to defend sterling, have suddenly decided that rates could be safely cut to 5 per cent or less. I personally would not go below 6 per cent, and then only in conjunction with a tough public spending and pay round. Even so, interest rates should fall sharply and soon. With the world economy in deep recession the inflationary dangers of lower interest rates are minimal.

Unfortunately, a politicised monetary policy presents another serious problem, apart from inflation. It turns the personal psychology of the prime minister into a crucial economic issue, as the past few weeks show. After unshackling itself from the ERM on September 16, Britain seemed to be set on a sensible and predictable economic course (anybody not imbued with Treasury dogma could predict that evening that interest rates would be down to 7 per cent by Christmas). But soon after the devaluation something went wrong, which accounts, I believe, for the despair that has settled on the business community, despite the obvious economic benefits of devalu-

ation. It turned out that John Major was not just an ordinary politician who could be relied on to pursue a policy that would restore his popularity and keep him in power.

A normal politician would have tried to show that the "black" of Black Wednesday was actually the "white" of a much easier monetary policy, as Norman Lamont suggested. But Mr Major had a different idea. Britain had just lost the most expensive poker game in history to the currency speculators, but he refused to fold. Instead, he seemed determined to play again and again, taking on all comers. On Black Wednesday, the prime minister ran out of money. Last week, he ran out of political IOUs. This week he pulled the deeds to his house in Downing Street out of his breast pocket and slapped them on the table, in the best Mississippi riverboat style. Predictably, the deeds turned out to be fakes.

I do not know Mr Major personally, but judging by his political behaviour, his oddest psychological trait has nothing to do with junk food: the prime minister seems to be a compulsive gambler. Why else would he delib-

erately bring forward an unnecessary confrontation with the Eurosceptics and then try to bluff them into submission with his implausible general election threat? As any poker player knows, the first thing Mr Major should have done after losing on Black Wednesday was to stop playing for high stakes until he had a clear winning hand. To try another bluff with his very next hand, as Mr Major did over the miners, was folly. To bluff three times with three successive weak hands suggests some kind of compulsion.

What has all this to do with monetary policy and Britain's economic outlook? Unfortunately, a great deal. Compulsive gambling has two features that are highly relevant to economic policy generally, and to monetary policy in particular.

Firstly, excessive gambling, like any other addiction, is often used as an escape from reality. People are drawn to gambling because they cannot face the responsibilities of their daily lives. In the two years since he became prime minister, Mr Major has presided over the greatest desolation the British economy has suffered for 60 years. But instead of doing anything about the recession,

he has put all his time and energy into a two-year contest with the financial markets to defend an arbitrary exchange rate. Until last Tuesday, when the Conservative whips and the miners finally opened his eyes, Mr Major found the battle of wills over sterling absorbing enough to distract him completely from the economic carnage around him.

One of the main reasons for the scale of the revolt against Europe this week has been the dreadful realisation by many Tories that last week's U-turn on economic policy may not have been final. The prime minister had promised to make "a policy for economic growth" his highest priority, yet by the weekend he was back at the gambling table, betting against his government on a trial of strength over Maastricht. The needs of the economy had been demoted to a distant second place. Given the difficulty the government is bound to have in pushing through unpopular measures to curb public spending and pay, international investors are naturally disturbed when he chooses to stake his scarce political capital on peripheral issues like Maastricht — hence, the sharp fall in sterling seen this week.

The gambling metaphor has somewhat happier monetary implications, which bring us back to the Mansion House speech. Gambling, especially poker, is based on institutionalised lying. The Chancellor made this clear to the Treasury select committee when he explained that the long series of manifestly untrue statements he made before the devaluation were needed to preserve credibility — ie, bluff the markets. The falsehoods disseminated by the Treasury in its efforts to bluff the markets have ranged from ludicrously unrealistic predictions — for instance that withdrawal from the ERM would lead to higher interest rates — to straight lies — for example, that the exchange rate would have no lasting effect on exports.

All of this bluffing and deception has not just been political propaganda. It has been the heart of an economic policy that goes back far before Mr Major. Ever since 1980, the high priests of monetarist orthodoxy brought into the newly politicised Treasury have believed in a doctrine called "rational expectations", which essentially argues that the government's main job is not to run the real economy but to influence financial expectations about inflation — ie, to bluff.

Now that the prime minister and Treasury have publicly lost their shirts in this game of political bluff, no new "commitments" on monetary growth, inflation or anything else will be believed. There is only one way for the Chancellor to make his words tonight remotely credible. He must sack the top Treasury officials who encouraged the government to turn monetary policy into a poker game. And he must put John Major in touch with Gamblers Anonymous. The phone number is 081-741 4181.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Brussels blamed for Whitehall's sins

From Mr Bryan Cassidy, MEP for Dorset East and Hampshire West (European People's Party (Conservative))

Sir, Mr John Brace draws attention to the problem of the new draft fire precautions regulations concerning places of work (Business Letters, October 22). Meeting the requirements of the regulations will cost a good deal more than the £1.7 billion which he calculates, as well as pushing a number of firms out of business.

However, the problem of which he so rightly complains does not originate in Brussels but in Whitehall. The Home Office Draft Fire Precautions (Places of Work) Regulations 1992 are draconian. But, they are not based on any European Community regulations, in spite of what the Home Office may say to the contrary. The Health and Safety Commission and the Confederation of British Industry have both protested at the absurd lengths to which the draft regulations go. I understand,

too, that the deregulation unit in the Department of Trade and Industry have also argued that the proposals appear to go far beyond the requirements of either of the relevant EC Directives, 89/391 and 89/654.

I have raised the matter with the President of the Board of Trade, who informs me that he understands "that the strong opposition from all quarters has persuaded the Home Office to pause and think again".

None the less, Mr Brace's letter is an example of how British officialdom seems to be trying to create an unlevel playing field, to make it more difficult for British business to compete in the single market. It seems to me that "Brussels" often gets blamed for things which should be more properly laid at the door of "Whitehall". Yours faithfully, BRYAN CASSIDY, Constituency HQ, The Stables, White Cliff Gardens, Blandford, Dorset.

No time to consult investors before Dan-Air sale to BA

From the chairman of Davies & Newman

Sir, Martin Waller's article on the projected sale of Dan-Air to BA will have explained much of the situation which led the board of Davies & Newman to conclude that it had no alternative but to proceed without first seeking shareholder consent. As such, this substantially provided a response to the issue raised by your Comment column on this subject on Tuesday.

The requirements of the 1986 Insolvency Act placed a clear obligation upon the board to act in the best interest of creditors, with £43 million trade creditors wholly at risk in the event of a collapse into receivership.

With insufficient borrowing facilities available to enable the company to continue to trade for the period which would have been required to obtain shareholder consent, the board was left with no alternative but to seek the consent of the London Stock Exchange to waive the usual procedure. Without this, the certain alternative would have been the immediate collapse of the company and a probable total loss for the unsecured creditors.

A receivership would also have lost the substantial additional benefits which are now expected to result for the continued employment of hundreds of staff and in the better redundancy terms which will apply for those staff who will not remain employed.

Yours faithfully, DAVID N. JAMES, Chairman, Davies & Newman, Premier House, 10 Greycoat Place, SW1.

Chemical reaction to Gatt warfare

From Mr John Cox

Sir, May I add the voice of the UK chemical industry to the debate about the Uruguay Round of the GATT. The chemical industry is the UK manufacturing sector's number one export earner with exports valued at £13.8 billion last year and a current surplus on the balance of payments of over £2 billion. These are divided equally between the European Community and other world-wide markets.

Clearly, therefore, a failure of the GATT round and a resultant in-for-tar war will especially damage our market access and our trading pro-

spects, business confidence, investment and jobs. Many of our member companies operate internationally and future placing of their investment will be shaped by business realities such as the current EC production capacity, market access and size. All industrial processes use chemical industry products. This includes farming. The implications are widespread and obvious. Yours faithfully, JOHN C. COX, Director General, Chemical Industries Association, Kings Buildings, Smith Square, SW1.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Dove's wings clipped

WHATEVER the date of the next election, members of the cabinet — among them Kenneth Clarke, Michael Heseltine and Michael Howard — are likely to find transportation between their various nationwide appointments a more arduous affair than last time. For the man who supplied them with a private aeroplane — at a "heavily subsidised rate" — has fallen victim to the recession. RSJ Aviation, a Battersea air charter broker, founded by old-Elonian Raymond Salisbury-Jones, 59, has gone into liquidation. Reading philosophically through a pile of thank you letters penned, among others, by Chris Patten, then Conservative party chairman, thanking him for his "generous support" and Lord Tebbit, Salisbury-Jones insists he harbours no bitter sentiments towards his former passengers, and will, he adds, continue to vote Conservative. "I was born in an age when the commitment to honour thy father and mother meant you also adhered to their political beliefs. I am a traditional Tory." The most distressing part of RSJ's liquidation is, he says, the enforced sale of the plane used by the ministers, a 1948 six-passenger de Havilland Dove — recently refurbished at a cost of £600,000 — likely to now fetch £250,000. In his efforts to find it a good home, he has enlisted Beverly Lady Annaly, widow of the late Lord Annaly, a former Greenwood partner, on the basis that, if successful, a fee



will be paid to Sign, a charity she founded for self-help housing for the young deaf.

T&G takes three

GOOD news, at least, at Teather & Greenwood, the broker, where senior partner Jeremy Delmar-Morgan is still recruiting. He has just taken on Vic Andrews from Greenwood, Morgan & Co. David Whitehead — 29 years with Warburtons — to boost his sales trading team. They will join Derek Samson, who arrived from BZW just six months ago. Delmar-Morgan is, he says, also keen to get a share of the action in the now buzzing food manufacturing sector and has recruited analyst Tim Ticker from recently disbanded Gilbert Elliot just in time to cover the RHM bid.

Job finder

AT LAST the truth can be revealed: the much publicised arrival of Tony Edwards at TI Group was widely expected, but what was not so well

known was that a story in these pages prompted his appointment. *The Times* reported on October 10 that Edwards, one of the heavyweights in the aerospace industry, was unhappy with his employer, Lucas Industries. He had learned that his chairman and chief executive, Sir Anthony Gill, intended to stay on longer than originally envisaged, thereby excluding him from the chief executive's role. According to TI's director of public affairs, Tony Sumner, it was that article which drew his attention to Edwards and the possibility that he might be on the market. An approach was then made. But this paper has, of course, forgone a headhunter's fee.

Olive strikes out

STEPS by Smith New Court to slim its futures and options team last month have worked out well for James Capel which has hired Michael Maras, ex-SNC, as a UK derivatives analyst. Maras has three degrees under his belt, speaks French, Greek and German, and nearly became a professional footballer in Athens. "I will be acting as a link with the equities team," says Maras, 27, and known in the market as "Olive the Greek". Anxious to explain, Maras adds, "Three or four Michaels sat near me at Smith and it got confusing. At lunch one day, I admitted to liking Greek Olives and the name stuck." In a separate swoop, Capel has poached Nigel Tillet from Barings to join its Life dealing team from Monday.

CAROL LEONARD

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

FT-SE VOLUMES										
Abbeey Ltd 3,800	Clutton Com 865	Land Secs 683	Soc Hydro 1,100	New York (midday):	FTSE Euro 100: 1028.09 (+10.70)	Period	Open	High	Low	Close
Alli-Yonics 1,000	Cosco Vytia 4,200	Legal & Gen 2,200	Soc & New 613	Down Jones	3243.03 (+7.30)	Dec 92	2709.0	2710.0	2680.0	2683.0
Anglian W 1,000	Corn Union 370	Lloyds Bk 3,200	Soc Power 2,500	S&P Composite	419.05 (+0.51)	Mar 93	2705.0	2705.0	2705.0	2705.0
Argo Wigan 2,000	Courtauld 295	M&G Card 2,000	Soc Steel 2,000	Tokyo:		Dec 92	93.65	93.75	93.62	93.67
Asif Foods 4,200	De La Rue 375	Marks Spk 11,000	Svm Trent 1,400	Nikkei Ave	17068.41 (+116.85)	Mar 93	94.14	94.21	94.07	94.13
BAA 1,400	Engr China C 1,795	NPC 332	Stm Trans 1,000	Hong Kong:		Jun 93	94.00	94.14	93.99	94.05
BAT Inds 1,000	Enterprise Oil 3,000	NatWest Bk 3,100	Slebe 1,000	Hang Seng	6126.98 (+91.03)	Dec 92	96.41	96.42	96.39	96.42
BCC 1,400	Fisons 1,900	Nat West 4,100	Smk Bk 3,200	Amsterdam:		Mar 93	96.41	96.38	96.41	96.37
Bentley 1,000	Goulds 295	Nat West 4,100	Soc & New 613	FT 500	1234.47 (+7.04)	Dec 92	91.79	91.86	91.77	91.765
BOT 1,400	GRE 1,000	Nat West 4,100	Soc Steel 2,000	FT 100	1253.62 (+7.73)	Mar 93	92.65	92.66	92.55	92.665
BP 1,400	GUS A 1,200	P & O 733	Soc Trans 1,000	FT Gold Mines	73.7 (-1.0)	Dec 92	103.03	103.03	102.23	103.02
BTR 3,500	Gran Acc 371	Pearson 1,800	Soc Allance 1,000	FT Fixed Interest	107.71 (+0.76)	Mar 93	100.17	100.10	100.10	100.08
BTCL 1,000	Gran Elec 3,300	PrimaGen 4,400	Tp Gip 1,000	FT Gen Secs	94.18 (+0.65)	Dec 92	100.17	100.10	100.10	100.08
Burys 2,000	Gran Inds 3,300	RTZ 2,000	Tp Gip 1,000	Long Gilt	100.17 (+0.65)	Mar 93	100.17	100.10	100.10	100.08
Bus 2,300	Gran S&P 3,300	Rank Org 913	Tp Gip 1,000	Long Gilt	100.17 (+0.65)	Dec 92	100.17	100.10	100.10	100.08
Blue Circle 2,000	Guinness 4,100	Rank Org 913	Tp Gip 1,000	Long Gilt	100.17 (+0.65)	Mar 93	100.17	100.10	100.10	100.08
Bulfinch 1,000	Hanson 4,700	Rank Org 913	Tp Gip 1,000	Long Gilt	100.17 (+0.65)	Dec 92	100.17	100.10	100.10	100.08
Burger 2,000	Hanson 4,700	Rank Org 913	Tp Gip 1,000	Long Gilt	100.17 (+0.65)	Mar 93	100.17	100.10	100.10	100.08
Brit Airways 8,300	ICT 2,000	Rank Org 913	Tp Gip 1,000	Long Gilt	100.17 (+0.65)	Dec 92	100.17	100.10	100.10	100.08
Brit Gas 0,800	Inchcape 1,300	Rank Org 913	Tp Gip 1,000	Long Gilt	100.17 (+0.65)	Mar 93	100.17	100.10	100.10	100.08
Brit Steel 2,800	Kingsfisher 1,100	Rank Org 913	Tp Gip 1,000	Long Gilt	100.17 (+0.65)	Dec 92	100.17	100.10	100.10	100.08
Brit Telecom 1,000	Kingsfisher 1,100	Rank Org 913	Tp Gip 1,000	Long Gilt	100.17 (+0.65)	Mar 93	100.17	100.10	100.10	100.08
Brit Wire 1,000	Kingsfisher 1,100	Rank Org 913	Tp Gip 1,000	Long Gilt	100.17 (+0.65)	Dec 92	100.17	100.10	100.10	100.08
Cable & Wire 1,000	Kingsfisher 1,100	Rank Org 913	Tp Gip 1,000	Long Gilt	100.17 (+0.65)	Mar 93	100.17	100.10	100.10	100.08
Cadbury 1,900	Kingsfisher 1,100	Rank Org 913	Tp Gip 1,000	Long Gilt	100.17 (+0.65)	Dec 92	100.17	100.10	100.10	100.08
	Kingsfisher 1,100	Rank Org 913	Tp Gip 1,000	Long Gilt	100.17 (+0.65)	Mar 93	100.17	100.10	100.10	100.08
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	Kingsfisher 1,100	Rank Org 913	Tp Gip 1,000	Long Gilt	100.17 (+0.65)	Dec 92	100.17	100.10	100.10	100.08
	Kingsfisher 1,100	Rank Org 9								

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No.	Company	Group	Price	Net Yld	P/E
1	Barclays Bank	Bank	100.00	4.50	12.5
2	Barclays Bank	Bank	100.00	4.50	12.5
3	Barclays Bank	Bank	100.00	4.50	12.5
4	Barclays Bank	Bank	100.00	4.50	12.5
5	Barclays Bank	Bank	100.00	4.50	12.5
6	Barclays Bank	Bank	100.00	4.50	12.5
7	Barclays Bank	Bank	100.00	4.50	12.5
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37	Barclays Bank	Bank	100.00	4.50	12.5
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42	Barclays Bank	Bank	100.00	4.50	12.5
43	Barclays Bank	Bank	100.00	4.50	12.5
44	Barclays Bank	Bank	100.00	4.50	12.5
45	Barclays Bank	Bank	100.00	4.50	12.5
46	Barclays Bank	Bank	100.00	4.50	12.5
47	Barclays Bank	Bank	100.00	4.50	12.5
48	Barclays Bank	Bank	100.00	4.50	12.5
49	Barclays Bank	Bank	100.00	4.50	12.5
50	Barclays Bank	Bank	100.00	4.50	12.5

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BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

No.	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
1	Barclays Bank	100.00	4.50	12.5
2	Barclays Bank	100.00	4.50	12.5
3	Barclays Bank	100.00	4.50	12.5
4	Barclays Bank	100.00	4.50	12.5
5	Barclays Bank	100.00	4.50	12.5
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48	Barclays Bank	100.00	4.50	12.5
49	Barclays Bank	100.00	4.50	12.5
50	Barclays Bank	100.00	4.50	12.5

BREWERIES

No.	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
1	Barclays Bank	100.00	4.50	12.5
2	Barclays Bank	100.00	4.50	12.5
3	Barclays Bank	100.00	4.50	12.5
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48	Barclays Bank	100.00	4.50	12.5
49	Barclays Bank	100.00	4.50	12.5
50	Barclays Bank	100.00	4.50	12.5

BUILDING, ROADS

No.	Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E
1	Barclays Bank	100.00	4.50	12.5
2	Barclays Bank	100.00	4.50	12.5
3	Barclays Bank	100.00	4.50	12.5
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47	Barclays Bank	100.00	4.50	12.5
48	Barclays Bank	100.00	4.50	12.5
49	Barclays Bank	100.00	4.50	12.5
50	Barclays Bank	100.00	4.50	12.5

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111	Swire Pacific	20	26	26	26	52
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THEATRE page 34

Punjabi classic: the love story of Heer and Ranjha proves puzzling at Stratford East

ARTS

TELEVISION page 35

Poirot as an anarchist? David Suchet "goes to seed" in Conrad's The Secret Agent



CINEMA: Geoff Brown reviews the new releases and Ismail Merchant tells how Hollywood finally returned his calls

The soldier, his wife and her terrorist lover

The Crying Game (Curzon West End, 18)
Glengarry Glen Ross (Odeon Haymarket, 15)
Boomerang (Plaza, 15)
Unlawful Entry (Odeon Leicester Square, 18)
Mon Père, Ce Héros (Curzon Phoenix, PG)

Over the last few years, keeping faith with the Irish writer and director Neil Jordan has proved difficult. His films turned flabby, transatlantic, they lost spice and personality. Last year's *The Miracle* saw a marked improvement: he was back in Ireland, with a modest budget, and a quirky script. The recovery accelerates in the dynamic, surprising *The Crying Game*, part political thriller, part obsessive love story, and Jordan's best film since *Mona Lisa*.

The original title, *The Soldier's Wife*, catches the essence much better. The soldier, Jody, is black, English, and serves in Northern Ireland, where he is kidnapped by the IRA. He strikes up a relationship with his guardian Fergus — who is surprised to discover a human being behind the abstract label "hostage". Jody is killed, but accidentally, and Fergus flees to a new life in London, bucking the recession by landing a building-site job with ease.

Enter the wife, an East End hairdresser, bewitching, mysterious, who sings soulful ditties — "The Crying Game" for one — in a bar. Guilt drives Fergus to seek her out. Then the plot veers sharply down alleys best left for the surprised spectator to explore. Politically, the film sits on the fence, which might aggravate some. No judgement is offered about the Irish troubles; Jordan's concern is to strip characters of beliefs and other protective clothing, leaving them vulnerable to the heart's crazy urgings. Early stretches confirm Jordan's great gift for character depiction through dialogue.

Stephen Rea is in his element as Fergus, the terrorist who finds his commitment wobbling; and the American Forest Whitaker, though nobody's idea of a lad from Tottenham, conveys great warmth, even with his face hooded.

Once the scene shifts to London, parallels with *Mona Lisa* multiply, from the seedy environment to the bemused white hero entangled with an exotic black (the soldier's wife, played by Jaye Davidson, a tantalising newcomer). Eventually, Jordan's hold on the story slips, but enough dark atmosphere and wit remains to make *The Crying Game* essential viewing. This is that genuine rarity: a bold British film, bound to get people talking.

Glengarry Glen Ross was first announced as a film in 1987. David Mamet's Pulitzer Prize-winner has lost some of the edge of its topicality; these desperate real-estate salesmen, clawing each other's throats for business, remain creatures of the rapacious Eighties, before the bubble burst. But the play's linguistic ferocity survives.

The dialogue hurtles from characters' mouths: humble speech banged into poetic shape by a master of the American vernacular.

Mamet's own script opens up the action, but keeps the sense of claustrophobia and panic as, lured by the bait of a Cadillac prize and the threat of unemployment, they race to sell off dubious properties. There are excellent, high-tension performances from Alan Arkin, Ed Harris and Al Pacino.

Jack Lemmon's star turn is more problematical. His character, the weary old-timer Shelley, stands centre-stage for most of the time. His barrage of tricks, ties and nervous laughs certainly convinced the Venice Film Festival jury; they gave him the Best Actor prize. An award for scenery chewing might be more accurate.

James Foley, director of *After Dark My Sweet*, contributes his own brand of artifice. The wide screen is filled with long simious takes, fancy nocturnal lighting, and abundant rain beating on windows: pleasurable, though they can distract from the cut and thrust of the dialogue. Cracking with energy, *Glengarry Glen Ross* ultimately hovers in limbo: not quite the play, not quite a film.

Boomerang is definitely a film, and a bad one. Thirty years ago, this dishevelled comedy about a

'Essential, and a genuine rarity: a bold British film, bound to get people talking'

Madison Avenue Lothario cut down to size by feisty women might have starred Rock Hudson or Cary Grant. Now Eddie Murphy, smug and preening, assumes the role in a career move designed to widen his appeal.

The few moments when the old impish Murphy surfaces only emphasise how lazy a performer he has become since the days of *Beverly Hills Cop*. Obsequious direction by Reginald Hudlin hardly helps.

Murphy, marketing executive for a cosmetics firm, lays siege to his new boss Robin Givens. But the glamorous Givens shows him the cold shoulder; contrary to audience expectations, Murphy spends most time with Halle Berry, a sensitive flower who organises art classes for local kids. He tells her she's made him a better person, though Murphy ends the film as selfish and sexist as ever.

Unlawful Entry is one of those aggravating thrillers where the villain stands out by a mile, but the imperilled heroine takes no notice. After suffering an attempted armed robbery at home, Kurt Russell and Madeleine Stowe get the police to fix "the best security system known to man". Ray Liotta of the LAPD worms his way into the couple's affections, and sees his sights on stealing Stowe for himself. Russell realises that Liotta is, in his phrase, "an out-of-control sick" long before the glibbie Stowe. By the end all the old tricks have been hauled out: the chucked chopping knife; the silhouette in the shower; the body that will not stay dead.



From opposite sides of the fence: Jaye Davidson as a soldier's widow and Stephen Rea as a terrorist on the run in Neil Jordan's *The Crying Game*

Jonathan Kaplan, usually a thoughtful director, shows his best qualities in the early scenes, when characterisations still have some shading, and the film stays within sight of reality. But the box-office demon must be fed. So out come the bluffs, bonks and blood, the extravagant plot-turns designed to whip spectators into a frenzy.

Last week he discovered America. This week he spends Christmas in Mauritius with his 15-year-old daughter. Life is hectic for Gérard Depardieu, though the French potboiler *Mon Père, Ce Héros* hardly taxes him. Gérard Lauzier's film adds little to the well-worn subject of the French en vacances.

Depardieu occupies the days in capacious shirts and floppy hats, making the best of a feeble script that requires him to play Chopin at the piano, and pose as a spy who holds his daughter in thrall.

Marie Gillain, meanwhile, as his lissom offspring, loses her heart to another young holiday-maker, moons on the beach, and shows off her swimwear collection. A heroine with greater sexual fire might have sharpened the drama. As things stand, there is little to do except admire the scenery, note Depardieu's waistline, and yawn.

At long last, Hollywood

Howards End may be the start of the big time for the British film-making team Merchant Ivory. Anna Kythreotis reports



Ismail Merchant: his media image is as a benign, puckish figure

Reduced to biopic shorthand the scenario would go like this: movie producer goes to Hollywood and the big time: two unhappy associations with the studio system demonstrate that his principles of high standards and thrift are inimical to their formulaic and extravagant films; he kicks the Californian dust off his heels to injunctions of "Don't call us..."

Decades pass; the hero has become a leading force in independent production, confounding the movie establishment with outstanding films that prove small budgets and high production values are not mutually exclusive. Meanwhile, Hollywood begins to crumble under its excesses; major companies are folding; there is only one man who can save them... they make the call.

That the Hollywood adventures of Ismail Merchant, cinema's unorthodox operator, should conform to the very conventions he so despises is an inescapable irony. Even the Hollywood call came dramatically, at 3am, in the elegant, 18th-century, hilltop chateau overlooking Cannes which Merchant had rented for the film festival this year. He was asleep in a turret, two floors and many corridors away from the only telephone, and could not normally have heard it ring. Instinct woke him.

The call was from Columbia Pictures, who were committed to a film of Kazuo Ishiguro's Booker Prize-winning novel, *The Remains of the Day*. But after four years in development they were unable to bring it in for much under \$30 million. Merchant's latest film, *Howards End*, directed, as always, by his partner James Ivory, had recently opened to brilliant reviews and explosive box office. It had cost just \$8 million. How much, Columbia wanted to know, could Merchant make the Ishiguro for? Even at 3am Merchant didn't miss a beat: \$11.5 million with Anthony Hopkins. He knew, because three years earlier he had considered making the film himself but the rights had already gone.

Two months later, Hollywood was surprised by the announcement that Merchant had agreed to a three-year deal with Disney. Since then, Warner Brothers have asked him to make a film for them. The advantage to the three studios of the Merchant Ivory connection is obvious, but why the volte-face from Hollywood's fiercest critic? "We are still totally independent," Merchant states unequivocally. "We could never go into any deal where we relinquish artistic control or the freedom to make the kind of film we've always made. For us, this means our next five projects are pre-sold to America

and backed by stable distribution and promotion." This is an important consideration, given that *Howards End* almost did not make it to the screen, when the completed film became caught up in the legal wrangles of the collapse of both its American and British distributors, Orion and Palace Pictures.

The Bombay-born producer, now 55 years old and celebrating a triumphant thirtieth year in the business, was in an expansive, discursive mood as he travelled (second class, British Rail — Hollywood or not, nothing changes) to the West Country location where *Remains* was being filmed. "We could have been wrapping by now but it took the Hollywood bureaucrats three months to prepare the six-page contract," he barks. "That's where their money goes — not on the screen, but on lawyers, accountants, businessmen."

The media image of Merchant as a benign puckish figure, distributing goodwill, charm and bowls of curry, is unrecognisable to those who have locked horns with him and discovered the formidable underside. He is, above all, fiendishly clever, and usually gets his own way simply by wrong-footing everyone else. Once, in negotiations with an important actor, Merchant asked his fee: "\$2 million," replied the actor. "\$2 million!" yelled Merchant. "That's absurd, ridiculous. Your agent's a fool — a great actor like you should be getting \$10 million."

The Americans were not alone in supposing they might learn something from Merchant. The then minister for national heritage, David Mellor, invited the producer to lunch soon after his return from Cannes. But the problems facing the movie industry in Britain are, considers Merchant, of a graver

nature than those of America. "Over here there is a problem of spirit which is very damaging."

And he blames the current inertia not only on government policies but on the passive attitude of the movie community itself and the lack of encouragement towards its own film-makers. There are, he concedes, lessons to be learned from the way he operates but he is cautious of being perceived as a movie guru delivering glib sermons. "We are unconventional film-makers. We have established our own method and made it work. If others want to follow our example they are welcome to. Our chief principles have always been a good script, sensitive direction, and economy."

But that is to underestimate the value of his own dynamism: his instinct for people, projects and timing, his ability to draw top actors for small change, his bravado in trusting unbloated talent on both sides of the camera, and his *frondeur* when tossing aside the rule-book... He has frequently committed the cardinal sin of staking his own money on projects, even putting up as collateral his most valuable asset, the library of Merchant Ivory films.

Now he has carte blanche on \$12 million budgets. He imposed that ceiling himself. "Otherwise we could end up spending \$40 million on a film and I would be in the same dilemma as many other producers. We won't go crazy. I mean, we are crazy, but we won't go mad."

An altogether different arms race

BRITAIN'S oldest national museum, the Royal Armouries, revealed this week what shape its new museum in Leeds will take. Architectural and design details for the new building, the centrepiece of a redevelopment in the Clarence Dock area of the city, went on display in the House of Commons this week.

The government has committed £20 million to the building, and the city has also pledged support, but substantial commercial funds are needed if the museum — mooted since 1989 as a way of overcoming the chronic space shortage within the Tower of London — is to meet its target 1996 opening date. A creative team, including the architects Derek Walker Associates and Henning Larsen, the theatre designer John Bury and the interior designer John Wright, has come up with a scheme that runs a public street through the museum and has a huge glass-walled octagonal tower called the "Hall of Steel", which combines the main staircase and wall displays of armour.

NEXT month's 70th anniversary of Marcel Proust's death is to be celebrated by a musical return to *temps perdu*. A programme of vocal and chamber music by Proust's Parisian contemporaries — Saint-Saëns, Debussy, Franck, Fauré, and Haydn — will attempt to

ARTS BRIEFING

recreate the musical ambience out of which *A la Recherche du Temps Perdu* grew and in particular the kind of music that Proust imagined flowing from the pen of his fictional composer Vinteuil, whose violin sonata plays a central role in the novel's love affair between Swann and Odette. The concert is at St John's Smith Square on November 22.

Family show
TOMORROW night's Ulster Orchestra Concert in the Ulster Hall, Belfast, will be a truly family affair. Conducting will be Yan Pascal Tortelier, son of the great cellist Paul Tortelier. The soloist in Saint-Saëns's first cello concerto will be Yan's mother, Maud — a distinguished cellist in her own right. And the concert opens with a Handel sonata arranged years ago for full orchestra by Paul Tortelier.

Last chance...
IF THE hippies had invented modern dance music it would have sounded like The Orb. The duo's chart-topping album *U.F. Orb* is a prime example of the spacey,



Yan Pascal Tortelier: see the "Family show" story, left

atmospheric soundscape music that has become known as ambient house dance music for people who do not like dancefloors. As a live act The Orb are self-effacing to the point of anonymity and, despite an impressive lightshow, it is hard to tell where the DJ playing records over the sound-system ends and the band begins. They have sold out virtually every show on the tour which ends with dates at Sheffield University (0742 724076) tonight, Liverpool University (051 794 2000) tomorrow and Manchester Academy (061 275 4815) on Saturday and Sunday.

Kenneth Branagh
Alphonsia Emmanuel
Stephen Fry
Hugh Laurie
Rita Rudner
Tony Slattery
Imelda Staunton
Emma Thompson

PETER'S FRIENDS

A comedy about love, friendship and other natural disasters.

At a cinema near you from November 13

LITERATURE: London's Poetry International festival; an American master reappraised; and small-screen Conrad

Not averse to a spot of rhyming

Alison Roberts on a golden autumn in prospect here for verse and versifiers, especially of the international kind

Steve Smith, in a bitter moment, once remarked that "As far as the public goes, poetry might be one of those branch lines scheduled for closing." As a poet born and bred in Palmers Green, north London, she would have known about such things. But the number of poetry readings and festivals taking place in Britain this autumn may well prove her wrong. Poetry, particularly the even more esoteric foreign brand, will almost certainly be appearing at a venue near you over the next few months.

Twentieth-century Britain has always proved incapable of digesting large amounts of poetry. That produced in languages other than English is still largely found only in degree course curricula or specialist bookshops and the translator wins far less acclaim than the original poet. The art of translation is seen, many would say undeservedly, as a second-class, muse-less activity.

The biennial Poetry International festival at London's South Bank Centre (October 30-November 8) is taking an unusual and exciting step, then, by importing poets and translators from Slovenia to Jamaica, from Peru to Malawi, to read and discuss their work. And by commissioning 12 new translations of work by poet Marina Tsvetayeva, one of a handful of great writers to voice the feelings of the Russian people under Stalin.

Many of the season's other poetic events are similarly intercultural. A tip of the iceberg list includes an Arts Council-funded tour by four Chinese writers, one of them a refugee poet whose work was banned following the Tiananmen Square uprising in 1989; a

Bloodaxe Books-sponsored evening of contemporary French poetry last night in London, which launched its new series of works by current French poets; and the Aldeburgh Poetry Festival in November, which includes the launch of Al Alvarez's *Faber Book of Modern European Poetry*.

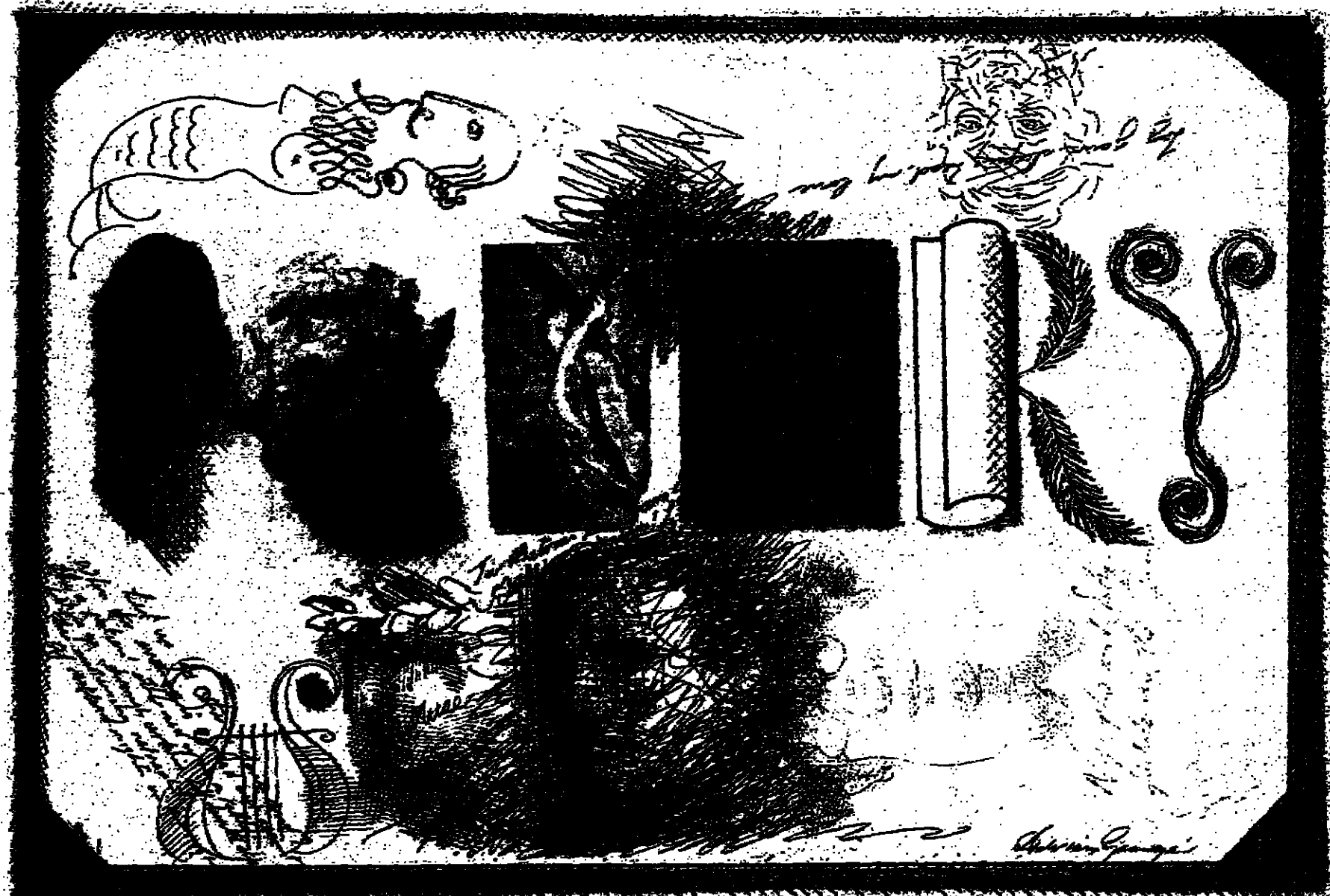
Fleur Adcock, one of the new Tsvetayeva translators, keeps one foot in the kind of poetic circles which revolve around festival readings, and the other on less literary ground. "It's hard for me to judge whether we have a resistance to poetry in this country because I live in a world where it is taken seriously all the time," she says.

"Having said that, it is very embarrassing when I go to parties sometimes and people ask me what I do. There is a reluctance to say I am a poet. I say that I am a writer and only own up if they probe. In a country like Holland poetry is far more respectable."

'People do seem to need poetry; it makes life feel less bleak'

Adcock has published translations of two modern Romanian poets, Greta Tarter and Daniela Crasnar; translating their work has enriched her own poetry, providing insight into a relatively alien poetic tradition. "I think it takes a poet to translate poetry, and the translation of English stuff into Romanian is done by poets too. I loved doing it — it was like discovering things because this stuff was not known by anyone else."

"I find it very fruitful too because it is quite different from my own poetry. There is a lot of fantasy, symbolism and imagery in it compared to my own work which is much more direct." Some of the Romanian poetry contained hidden political messages and sometimes the images were "so obscure



that it was absolutely meaningless". But the discipline involved in actually learning the language, grappling with the syntax and interpreting the foreignness "teaches you how important literature is for keeping you sane."

Poet and novelist Elaine Feinstein was the first person to bring the poetry of Tsvetayeva to the attention of the West. Her translations harness her own poetic talent and are featured in the international festival. "It's exciting that the halls are filling up," she says. "People do seem to need poetry; it makes life feel less bleak by giving you something encouraging for a change."

Tsvetayeva's themes are exile and abandonment and the atmosphere in which she wrote was 'near' to suffering. Several of the poets brought to Britain for an autumn tour have experienced artistic oppression more recently. Jack

Masperie, appearing in Aldeburgh, spent three and a half years in a Malawi prison without trial and Bei Dao's pro-democratic stance forced him to flee his native China.

The latter's poetry is published "through various unofficial channels" in China. "There is a folk movement in China which does this: it is underground, a kind of zero society," he explains. Bei Dao, who now lives in Leiden in the Netherlands, feels that the cross-breeding of cultures implicit in the translation of poetry and in readings of those translations leads to an understanding of more than just foreign poets.

He was looking forward to his visit to Belfast on the tour. This is partly because he wanted to be able to communicate to other people living under a threat of violence and also because "Irish culture is very distinguished. There are so many important writers and poets

there must be a spirit of adventure there." It is likely that the Chinese poets will strike British audiences as the most foreign of the lot. Their willingness to philosophise about their work and the difficulties of translation is refreshing and often self-deprecating.

The European Arts Festival is also sponsoring an impressive number of tours, along with publication of new translations and readings. It is promoting tradition (a tour of Europe's "fine writers") and innovation (Atilla the Stockbroker leads Anglo-Dutch stand-up poets), and a combination of both with a new verse translation of Baudelaire. Today the American author Paul Auster will join the French poet Jacques Dupin at the ICA in London to discuss Auster's translations of Dupin's work. The two share a literary and philosophical

rigour, as well as a friendship cultivated in Paris.

For Auster the "intersection" of poetic traditions is what kept poetry alive in the past and what keeps it going now. Translations are difficult to sell, and often done out of admiration for the foreign author. "It's a matter of living with the poetry for a long, long time. Some of the new selected translation is a reprise of some of the old translations that I did when I was in Paris and some is new, although I have known the poetry for a long time."

"All poetries have fed off one another; English poetry is indebted to the Italian and French tradition. And all the enduring poetry is transnational."

Timothy Mathews, the co-editor of the new *Bloodaxe Contemporary French Poets* series in bilingual editions, says that part of the problem is accessibility. The new books and the South Bank's inter-

national festival aim to make foreign poetry easily available. "We want to get French poetry read as it is read in France itself," Mathews says. "There it is as much a part of the cultural life as the cinema."

"Some of the French poets hold chairs in major institutions and have a real voice in making important national decisions. But poetry is not purely intellectual; it is able to feed into many different levels of life."

None of the touring writers or festival organisers is expecting huge audiences. An average of 146 people attended each of the readings at last year's Aldeburgh Festival and the co-ordinators say this is a good turn-out. There is enough variety in the festivals this year to satisfy all tastes, however, and perhaps to convert the sceptics.

● Poetry International starts tomorrow at the South Bank, London SE1. Details on 071-921 0906

Returning to Main Street

Once acclaimed as the novelist who helped to drag American fiction into the 20th century, and the first American writer to win the Nobel Prize for Literature, Sinclair Lewis appeared to have been relegated to that most poignant category of authors, The Great Unread.

Four decades after his death, however, his two masterpieces, *Main Street* and *Babbalanza*, have been inducted into the Library of America, the prestige collection (modelled on France's *Pléiade* series) devoted to the nation's most important writers of fiction and non-fiction. Lewis, the scourge of Middle America, takes his place alongside Melville, Francis Parkman, Edith Wharton, Thoreau and Mark Twain.

Though his name may have slipped into obscurity, Lewis's influence can still be felt whenever a political columnist likens George Bush to "Babbalanza" or a lascivious television evangelist is exposed as another "Elmer Gantry".

Born in 1895 in the Minnesota town of Sauk Centre (whose citizens still celebrate an annual "Sinclair Lewis Day") Lewis published several minor novels before achieving notoriety with *Main Street* in 1920. Readers who were accustomed to tales of the virtuous, self-sacrificing inhabitants of small towns desecrated Lewis's jaundiced account of

American readers are rediscovering one of the country's most innovative writers.

Clive Davis on the Sinclair Lewis revival



Sinclair Lewis: his realism was exhaustively researched

life in the fictional hamlet of "Gopher Prairie" with outrage and guilty fascination. Two years later came *Babbalanza*, whose curiously sympathetic central character, George F. Babbalanza, symbolised the American businessman and complacent "boosters" across the land. By the end of the decade Lewis's books were bestsellers.

In contrast to the genteel, Europeanised prose of a Wharton or a William Dean Howells, Lewis's books were crammed full of the vigorous rhythms and neologisms of everyday conversation and the bric-a-brac of the new consumerism. "What Mr Lewis has done for myself and thousands of others," declared E.M. Forster, "is to lodge a piece of a continent in our imagination."

By the time he was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1930, however, Lewis's powers were already waning, thanks in part to his taste for the bottle. In the last 20 years of his life he published another nine novels, most of them undeniably inferior to the earlier works and each greeted with hostility from reviewers. A poignant and solitary figure in later years, he died in Rome in 1951 following an attack of delirium tremens. His reputation expired with him.

More recently, however, there are signs of a reappraisal. Tom Wolfe, writing about his own bestseller, *The Bonfire of the Vanities*, has acknowledged his debt to Lewis's exhaustively researched brand of realism. And in a generally sympathetic assessment of the new Library of America edition, Gore Vidal praises the author's "Balzacian force" of the descriptions of people and places. Lewis will probably never again be required reading for millions of Americans, but it is reassuring to know that he may not, after all, be totally forgotten.

● *Main Street* and *Babbalanza* are available as Penguin 20th Century Classics.

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TELEVISION REVIEW: Harry Eyres on a stylish and sinister Conrad adaptation

There is nothing new about terrorist outrages in London. In 1894 a blundering attempt was made to blow up the Greenwich Observatory, apparently by an anarchist terrorist, who only succeeded in fatally mangle himself. Later it came out that the man behind the attack was a secret agent, H.B. Samuels, working to discredit the anarchist movement. The man carrying the bomb was Samuels's brother-in-law. When Joseph Conrad heard that this brother-in-law was "half an idiot" and that his sister afterwards committed suicide, he knew he had a story.

The *Secret Agent* (BBC 2, last night) is a difficult, treacherous tale, not so much because of the involved plot, but because it is not really about politics or terrorism at all: as usual with Conrad it concerns the terrible fates of ordinary people. The key is tone, and the director of this new version, David Drury, started well by counter-

Faithful in deceit

pointing images of Edwardian London, alternately sordid and hollowly splendid, with music of ironic drawing-room complacency, composed by Barrington Pheloung.

But the chief responsibility for establishing tone falls on the actor playing the obese, indolent agent, Adolf Verloc. Thumbing through his boxes of dirty postcards (his front is as a purveyor of pornography and revolutionary literature) David Suchet's Verloc could not help reminding one of a Poirot gone catastrophically to seed.

The joke, in this first episode of *Dusty*

Hughes's faithful adaptation, was that the police knew exactly who the anarchists were, but considered them too harmless to arrest, while the anarchists scorned the police for not having the guts to arrest them. A masterly, rag-faced performance came from Warren Clarke as Chief Inspector Heat, keeping the screw turned on Verloc with chummy menace.

The two succeeding episodes will show the shattering of Winnie Verloc's premise that "things don't bear too much looking into": here Cheryl Campbell, as the agent's unprying wife, gave, quite rightly, little indication of her ability to rise to that challenge. The only question I found myself asking was whether the lovingly pictorial period style of this "classic" serialisation was the only possible one: how about a *Secret Agent* filmed by Fritz Lang, or one performed by Théâtre de Complicité at their most zany Expressionistic?

Hungarian uprising of memory

The archetypal central European intellectual, George Konrad, shows how the generation of 1956 lost its way

Adelheid von der Schulenberg

A FEAST IN THE GARDEN
By George Konrad
Faber, £14.99

returns only in the 1980s as a slightly trendy American university professor.

There are well-drawn portraits of the people we meet in the course of these lives: Jeremiah, Melinda's father and teacher of the three friends, is the eternal wandering Jew, who retains well into his

eighties a strong desire to bite the golden bottom of an Asian girl; Dragomán's mother, in a fit of Zionist enthusiasm, has her teenage son circumcised without anaesthetic; the impoverished baron is not above accepting money from his mistress's husband in order to save embarrassment.

Konrad's narrative technique depends on the seasons of detachment with which he observes the world: "I have put the agonies of my passions into a sack and then I pull them out as well formed stories, like white rabbits." What cannot be turned into a white rabbit is the story of David Kobra, his own pleasurable reveries of life are constantly interrupted by terrifying

images of cattle-cars and corpses, just as his childhood was interrupted when he watched his father being taken away by the Gestapo.

"Father knew everyone he saw in the street, but he had nothing to say to them; he walked as if in a scene being filmed. The scene was not upsetting, perhaps not even sad, only unusual. The faces at first showed puzzlement, then the features were re-adjusted: 'Ah yes, this is what happens now; they're taking away the Jews.'"

Young Kobra escapes to Budapest together with his sister. On the day they arrive he remembers his last visit here with his mother.

"A year ago it had been happiness that made my throat tighten. I grew weak at the sight of the city, as when the curtain goes up at the opera a fantastic ballroom emerges in the dark. Then my mother stood behind me, but now, perhaps, she

stood in that train that had just passed us. I kept standing on that balcony throughout the summer, waiting for our parents to come and get us."

He survives the war in a protected house, growing up with death: "It is remarkable too, that an 11-year-old can realise the cold fact that he can be killed at any time and yet not falter. In the winter of 1944/45 I thought of death almost in the way one thinks of firewood, there is nothing special about it."

This is the central story, told from beginning to end in a clear voice with the simplicity the worst memories can produce. It is the most touching account of the Holocaust, the key to Kobra's existence. If dreadful events are to be re-enacted, they require a kind of jauntiness, like the dancing and drinking at an Irish wake. *A Feast in the Garden* is an elegy, a real addition to the literature of levelling.

Adelheid von der Schulenberg, the Countess of Gower, is a journalist who writes in German and English.

Since George (György) Konrad's political and philosophical essays are as important as his novels, it is not surprising that his latest book is an androgynous combination of the two. Hungary's most distinguished writer — better known in Germany than here, and also president of International PEN — has written a kind of contemplative guide to his past. It veers between dream and memory, essay and portrait. It is a novel about a novel being conceived in the mind of its chief protagonist, David Kobra, who bears many of Konrad's own characteristics.

The book opens in an overgrown garden in the centre of Budapest, to which Kobra has returned to write. In this real and imagined place he conjures up his past, and embarks like Proust on an expedition into his own consciousness. The playing-field of the novel will be his life, the players his friends and relatives.

Because memory has a quarrelsome relationship with imagination, the narrative does not flow

sequentially and would not be realistic if it did. Indeed there are several narrators and states of consciousness, and the reader wonders at times which voice he is hearing. Action is not always distinct from contemplation, and as with memory there are leaps in time and place.

In spite of these lifelike confusions, a story emerges. It unfolds in snapshots from the lives of three Jewish Hungarian schoolfriends: the writer David Kobra, the social scientist János Dragomán, and the film director Antal Tombor. All three were born in 1933 and have lived through communism and revolution. The action starts in the last decade, just before the Cold War ended. The past appears piecemeal through the characters' own habits of retrospection.

There is a conventional love triangle: Melinda, the attractive

and dreamy mother of two children, born in 1949, is married to Antal Tombor and has an affair with his friend János Dragomán, a ladykiller dressed in Calvin Klein. János confesses his sexual adventures with a generalised love of humanity. The narrative revolves around the lovers' interior voices.

Beyond that the novel can be read as a roman à clef about the 1956 generation of Hungarian intellectuals. Antal Tombor tries successfully to develop his artistic abilities within the confines of the political system. Kobra goes into inner emigration and condemns himself to an existence on the periphery, while Dragomán leaves Hungary altogether and

Riddles of a rustic idyll

Natasha Fairweather

NOCTURNE
Lisa St Aubin de Terán
Hamish Hamilton, £14.99

THE HEATHER BLAZING
Colin Tobin
Picador, £14.99

THE FEATHER REPORT
By Mark Illis
Bloomsbury, £14.99

As the century draws to a close it would seem that many writers, even rather young ones, are taking *fin de siècle* retrospection for their theme. Lisa St Aubin de Terán and Colin Tobin, novelists in their thirties, both choose to dramatise the painful recollections of old age in their new novels. Both *Nocturne* and *The Heather Blazing* are set in a historical context, with Catholicism and the destruction of rural life running through as undercurrents. Both novels focus on the drama of an old man, in the words of St Aubin de Terán, "milking [his] memories and then churning over the past to make rancid butter".

But for all their similarities, the effect created is strikingly different. In her previous fiction, St Aubin de Terán has tended to present a very feminine perspective on life. *Nocturne*, by contrast, concerns itself exclusively with the world of men. Alessandro Mezzanotte is dying. Blinded and maimed during the second world war in an accident which is shrouded in mystery, he returns to his hill-top Umbrian village to live out the long years which remain of his life. Blindness in youth is in many ways like premature old age. It renders Mezzanotte — whose name "midnight" seemed to predestine him to a life of darkness — almost invisible to those around him. Isolated from the villagers and from new experience, he is forced to live vicariously through the recollection of his youthful love for a wild gypsy fairground girl called Valentina.

Mezzanotte would probably have taken his secrets with him to the grave, but for the arrival of Stephano, a young man spending his military service as a companion to war veterans. This coincides with the return to town of Valentina's old fair. Desperate for news, Mezzanotte sends Stephano down to the fair to find out what has become of Valentina. Returning empty-handed, the two men sit down to drink together (Mezzanotte drinks to remember, while Stephano drinks to forget) and Mezzanotte unfolds the details of his life of passion.

Nocturne is a wonderfully evocative novel. The title captures something of the dreamy musical quality of the writing as well as hinting at St Aubin de Terán's impressionistic literary style. The essence of Italian village life is evoked in a few simple brush strokes.

It is all the more frustrating, therefore, to find that enticing subplots are developed only to be left to founder unfinished. What of the dark, violent side to Mezzanotte's character, which frightens even him? And what becomes of Stephano's overbearing father whose position as a judge fills him with such blinding certitude? We are never to know, for St Aubin de Terán is much better at beginning her novels than ending them.

Colin Tobin's second novel is, by contrast, a much tighter narrative. Set in his native Ireland, it is a retrospective on the life of Eamon Redmond, an Irish High Court Judge. For the whole of his career Eamon has been obliged to adjudicate daily on issues which continue to plague contemporary Ireland such as the position that a Catholic state, which bans abortion, should take regarding single motherhood. However, as he wordlessly watches his daughter embark on just such a course in life and his wife, Carmel, die slowly of a stroke, he becomes troubled by memories of the past.

From a family of ardent and

politically active Republicans, Eamon was named after Eamon de Valera. With Fianna Fáil's rise to power Eamon's life seems set for success. He marries the first girl he meets at party headquarters, and has lots of legal work pushed his way. But Eamon, whose mother died in childbirth, and who has watched his grandfather, father and favourite uncle die in swift succession, is unable to communicate with those around him.

Tobin slowly develops his narrative by paying meticulous attention to the minutiae of life. He teeters on the boundaries of losing the reader's interest through the unrelenting monotony and greyness of his subject. But the prose, which has a detached, dense and stilted quality, is strangely haunting and remains with one long after the book has been closed.

The premise of Mark Illis's third novel, *The Feather Report*, is that the ubiquitous presence of the computer has provided the space to store and cross-tabulate more information than the human mind could ever previously conceive of. Information gathering has become a modern sickness, as facts are pursued as an end in themselves rather than the means to some more fruitful conclusion.

Paul Feather is both house- and muscle-bound. He spends his days trawling through vast quantities of paper, fishing for information, particularly concerning violent crime. He lifts weights for what is left of his day until his muscles rip from the strain. In the employ of the large and mysterious Walsh Foundation, run by a powerful but decrepit tycoon, Paul is investigating the causal relations between disparate things and tracing patterns of violent behaviour. But, as Paul begins to discover that everything is interconnected, he is less and less able to produce the long-anticipated *Feather Report*.

Hounded by his employer's phonecalls and hungry for sexual contact, Paul ventures out into the world. He cannot decide whether someone is trying to kill him or whether he is paranoid. The information which he has gathered seems to be afflicted by a virus, as crippling as its computerised counterpart, which is poisoning everything that he touches, even his thoughts. Having fled from the painful responsibility of dealing with his sister Hazel's flight from sanity, Paul is forced to question his own. He finally seeks Hazel out and it is she who is able to see with the clarity of the innocent that Paul is not the author of the *Feather Report* but its subject. Its completion could prove fatal.

Although *The Feather Report* is full of clever conceits, it is a thriller without suspense, a psychological drama devoid of narrative drive. The Walsh Foundation, with its Big Brother overtones, is populated with characters who are as bland and familiar as the clichés they spout. Even the lip-smacking, religiously fanatical parasite, Edmund Staples, fails to captivate as the villain of the piece. And Paul Feather makes an unconvincing, neurotic anti-hero. Stylistically slick and full of the narrative props of the technological age, *The Feather Report* epitomises the ailments of the British novel, in which content has been displaced by style.



"November: Ploughing", wood-engraving from a new reprint of Clare Leighton's *The Farmer's Year* (1933), Sumach Press, £30

The thoughtful nappy-changers of NW6 who contribute the essays and poems which make up *Fatherhood* are spoken for in Stewart Brown's poem, "Heart to Heart".

There is finally nothing to say except that I will be waiting for you always, at the school gates, outside the party, at the station, in your triumphs and your griefs, and later, if there's another place, I'll be the fat, bald, bearded one looking afraid and in the way.

Almost to a man, Sean French's posse of fathers, sons and fathers-to-be are eager to be useful, yet feel in the way. Embarrassed by their sex's legacy of "male chauvinism", they are unsure not only of what is expected of them as fathers, but also of what ought to be expected. *Fatherhood* should be the gift for fathers-to-be this Christmas.

Sean French harks back to a children's story by Dr Seuss, *Horton Hatches the Egg*, in which a faithful elephant suffers a year of torment to hatch an egg for an absconding mother bird and is rewarded when it hatches a little elephant with wings. "Is this not the dream of the New Man," asks French, "that by being sensitive enough, by finding the womanly side of himself, the woman can be supplanted together?"

Nearly half this collection consists of similar soundbites from a Daddy-and-toddler-group coffee morning. One working housewife, Tim Hilton, gripes: "Women are always advising each other about childcare: no man tells another man how to be a father." A thread of helplessness runs through these essays. "I'm just sitting beside a bucket of sand and watching a fire. In time, it'll burn out of control anyway," writes the poet Michael Hofmann.

Sucking out like a retired colonel at a National Childbirth Trust class

is Professor Roger Scruton, whose brief and dazzling sermon on the death of fatherhood explains with merciless clarity the malaise that shadows some of the other essays. "Man... has exchanged the onerous duties of fatherhood for the rights of the nanny-coddled orphan. He can walk out of his wife and family just when he wants; he can have his way with women and disclaim all responsibility for the love he might inspire in them." According to Scruton (not a father himself), we have replaced "the father and his law" with the easy-to-get-on-with mother-law, the nanny state where no one is rebuked or disciplined. "The aim of life is no longer to grow up and assume life's burdens, but to remain attached to the nipple through which the milk of human kindness inexhaustibly flows."

In *Fatherhood*, adoration is blended with resentment, regret and frustration. This is most poignant in "His Balls" by Noah Richler, who obviously still worships his father Mordecai, yet suffered humiliation at his hands when he tried to write. He could not be saved from drug addiction by this supposedly strong parent. Scruton blames Freud for "the final catastrophe of fatherhood": the Oedipus complex, in which —

according to Scruton — the son puts an end to the father's power by opting for the mother. Mervyn Jones, novelist son of the psychoanalyst Ernest Jones, found himself trapped like a fly in a spider's web by his father's application of the dreaded complex to everything poor Mervyn did that

went against Ernest's wishes. "I did not want to hate my father; yet by failing to hate him, I should be repudiating his creed," he writes. His description of their relationship is a terrible reminder of how like a bicycle a family is: stop to think how it works and you fall off.

One can see why mankind might sometimes be exhausted by the father-son relationship and turn gratefully to the world of mother and baby. In the unsung world of mother-and-baby magazines, there is a standard feature whose generic title can be summed up as "My Miracle Baby: A Mother's True Story". These tales of children fighting illnesses are meant to rend your heart over your coffee, and rend they do. They do little harm and often impart some snippet of medical knowledge.

When *Harpers & Queen* ran its own "My Miracle Baby" piece, the baby could not be just any baby; it simply had to be blue-blooded. Nella Beevor's grandfather is a

viscount, better known as John Julius Norwich. *Perfect Love* is his mother to do a piece for *Harpers* about when Nella nearly died.

Fortunately, *Watching in the Dark*, the book which grew out of Artemis Cooper's article, transcends the silly snobishness of *Harpers*. With an endearing artlessness, this very loving mother charts the weeks during which Nella, then a delicious eight-month-old, struggled to survive a freak intestinal infection.

Only a new artificial hormone — the "miracle drug" of TV hospital melodrama — saved Nella in the end. Weeks spent in a room with her baby strapped to tubes and monitors made Cooper a wonderful observer of hospital routine. She was quick to pick up the undercurrents beneath doctor-speak.

But Cooper flounders when she examines the moral background to Nella's ordeal. She declares that modern Western mothers are "unprepared" for the death of their children, compared with parents in other cultures and generations. She illustrates this by describing her encounter, years before, in a remote straw hut in the Air Mountains of the Niger, with a young mother whose newborn twins were dying of a congenital problem needing immediate surgery.

At Cooper says it, the African woman "accepted in silence" that the white stranger could not help the babies. What is Cooper trying to say? Does she suppose the woman did not weep for her children after the Westerner had gone? Does she seriously believe that because she is an "unprepared" Westerner, her own anguish in Westminster Children's Hospital was in some way worse than that of another woman who lost her children in a straw hut, unvisited by *Harpers*?

Sean French, page 19.

To our fathers in distress

Sarah Johnson

FATHERHOOD
Edited by Sean French
Virago, £11.99

WATCHING IN THE DARK
A child's fight for life
By Artemis Cooper
John Murray, £9.95

Were it not that he had bad dreams

Christopher Hawtree

A WORLD OF MY OWN
By Graham Greene
Reinhardt Books, £12.99

Yet he remained alert to dreams. In particular, Greene's unduly neglected novel *It's a Battlefield* had its origins in sleep, as did part of *The Honorary Consul*, by which time he had resumed the keeping of a dream-diary. Begun in 1965, it had grown to 800 carefully indexed pages of his minuscule handwriting by 1989, when he made this selection.

The title derives from Heraclitus of Ephesus, who wrote around 500 BC: "The waking have one world in common, but the sleeping turn aside each into a world of his own."

The phrase is quoted in a reimagined copy of Charles Rycroft's *The Innocence of Dreams* which, in turn, took it from a study by B.D. Levin — Greene's heavily annotated library is an idiosyncratic mine of information.

Scarcely a twentieth of the whole manuscript, *A World of My Own* is rearranged by such subjects as "writers", "spying", and "religion", shorn of the erotic ("I do not wish to involve those whom I have loved"), and interspersed with commentary. An entertaining diversion, it is a glimpse of his creative mainspring rather than the thing itself.

Even when events are trivial, preposterous, or both, Greene's prose makes the characters and landscapes vivid. For a moment one almost believes that Lord

Horne has "Marquess of Home" embroidered on his silk shirts and that he advised against going to witness riots in India. "There's nothing to be done about that place." Particularly good, if less plausible, is a night spent carousing in a pub with Edward Heath, who had just read the typescript of a new novel and, impressed, decided to make the writer ambassador to Scotland. They celebrated by leaping into a muddy river — where Heath scolded the idea of a textile fair, David O. Selznick once having told him that such events were rarely worth the trouble.

Never quite proving that Shakespeare was right to say "When most I wink, then do mine eyes best see", *A World of My Own* leaves one eager for more of the common world as seen by Greene and reported in his thousands of letters.



Life is a dream: Greene looks west from East Berlin, 1963

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Lost political cultures still resonate in four new books on oratory, parliament, the Bundesbank and Balfour

How to write a Thatcher speech

Any selection of the great political speeches of the 20th century invites criticism. Some of the greatest House of Commons orations are omitted from Brian MacArthur's volume because, he says, they were not scripted and do not read as well as they sound in the packed cockpit of the Commons. (That is not true in the case of Lady Thatcher's resignation speech, an example he cites.) Gorbachev fails to make the cut on grounds of translation: a bit hard when Lenin, Stalin and Trotsky do make it, and no subsequent Soviet leader until Gorbachev had any thing worthwhile to say.

But these are quibbles. It would be hard to do better than MacArthur's selection, which is a tribute to the breadth of his knowledge. The book is a splendid Christmas gift. A book can only present speeches as literature, while the magic of a great speech lies not in the printed word but in the performance and the occasion. That is not invariably the case. I suspect former President Havel's eloquent but densely argued exposure of the contaminated moral environment under communism needs to be read to be properly understood. Some of the samples in this collection — Mussolini's bitter 1914 diatribe against those who expelled him from the Socialist Party, or General George Patton's stirring addresses to his troops going into battle — barely make sense in cold print. But no one can doubt the force of their impact at the time.

What makes a speech memorable? The greatest quality, to my mind, is passionate belief. Most of the speeches assembled here were made to advance a great cause, whether it be Lloyd George seeking social justice, Patrick Pearse on Irish independence, or Emmeline Pankhurst demanding rights for women. The speech can be powerful and compelling but the cause ignoble or wicked: Hitler's speeches are the prime example. Oratory has always been as powerful a force for evil as for good.

Another essential quality is the phrase that lives on long after the speech itself: "a country fit for heroes", "the river Tiber foaming with much blood", "the iron curtain" and "the wind of change". A memorable phrase does not guar-

antee a great speech — "read my lips" — but multiplies its impact and perpetuates its message. A great speech also calls for a sense of theatre, an ability to convey conviction which is sometimes achieved better without a text. I once heard Franz Josef Strauss speak without a note in *Boyerisch* for two and a half hours to an enthusiastic and excited audience. But it is the clarity of thought and quality of language that make a speech great. While every age has its fashion, quality endures and that is what emerges from this book. It should be compulsory reading for speechwriters, espe-

Charles Powell

THE PENGUIN BOOK OF TWENTIETH-CENTURY SPEECHES

Edited by Brian MacArthur
Penguin, £17.99

ally those responsible for the lamentable perorations at this year's party conferences.

Is the art of making great speeches being lost? MacArthur points out that every generation judges contemporary speakers unfavourably against the giants of the past. The audience for speeches is greater than ever before, multiplied by television and radio. Yet technology lays traps. The appetite of the electronic media for short, sharp excerpts has led to the emergence of the "sound bite". It often now seems to be the only part of a speech on which politicians lavish care.

The autocue is also not without its dangers (quite apart from its tendency to break down). It gives a marvellous "look, no hands" impression to the audience. But unless very carefully rehearsed, an autocue speech can turn the speaker into a robot, being led through a text with all the passion of a newscaster. Even so, you can still fool some of the people some of the time. I sat next to a retired prime minister on the stage at the Guildhall a few years ago, while President Reagan delivered a faultless speech from his invisible teleprompter. At the end, my neighbour turned to me and said: "Remarkable to be able to

remember all that at his age." Lastly a plea on behalf of speechwriters. I am not sure when they were first employed. I somehow doubt whether Demosthenes or Cicero had speechwriters, although the more organised Julius Caesar may have done. They are probably an invention of the mid 20th century. Some achieve great and deserved prominence. Theodore Sorensen for Kennedy, Peggy Noonan for Reagan; and in Britain Chris Patten and Ronnie Miller.

But most of us are twilight creatures (literally, since the work is usually done at night). We labour with scant direction to produce material for the great divas of politics. I treasure a story of Henry Kissinger instructing a newly arrived staffer to draft a speech for him. The novice laboured for two weeks before handing in his draft. It came back the next day with the scolding comment you can do better than this. He beavered away for another week of late nights and served up an alternative version. That too came back with the comment: this won't do. In desperation and with time running out, he worked through two days and nights before handing in a third version. This time he was summoned by the great man, and found him holding the speech. "Is this really the best you can do?" asked Dr Kissinger. "I'm afraid so," the speechwriter replied miserably. "In that case, I will read it this time," said the great Doctor.

Those involved behind the scenes with Lady Thatcher's speeches have happier memories. We learnt useful techniques. Never put anything worthwhile in the first draft, for it will be rejected. Keep the structure for the second draft, for the first will inevitably be condemned as not having one. Have the collected works of Rudyard Kipling to hand. Don't even try to draft a peroration until you are right up against a time limit, because they are always revised right down to the line. Be ready to stay up until six in the morning on the day of delivery if necessary. But the satisfaction is immense — including that of finding a speech on which I worked in this book.

Sir Charles Powell was Lady Thatcher's private secretary, 1984-91.



Arthur Balfour at the despatch box of the Commons, by the caricaturist Spy (Sir Leslie Ward)

Letters mingle souls

Caroline Moorehead

THE LETTERS OF ARTHUR BALFOUR AND LADY ELCHO 1885-1917

Edited by Jane Ridley and Claire Percy
Hamish Hamilton, £25

In February 1895, Arthur Balfour wrote to Lady Elcho: "Think of what you would like best to hear and have faith that that is what I should like to speak." This awkward, guarded sentence is the closest the future prime minister ever got to expressing his feelings on paper for the woman who was his intimate correspondent for over 30 years. Mary Elcho herself was not often more forthcoming, though as she grew older and more confident she became more animated, and occasionally she teased him.

Long-legged, graceful and rich, Arthur Balfour was the nephew of Lord Salisbury, the prime minister into whose shoes he stepped in 1902. In politics for most of his long life — he died in 1932 aged 84 — Balfour never married. But in his early thirties he met 17-year-old Mary Wyndham, eldest of the five "wild Wyndham children". In 1885, when she had recently married and had her first child, they started to write to each other, remaining close friends for the rest of their lives.

Their letters might never have come to light had it not been for the perseverance of Claire Percy, who became interested in Mary Elcho. Percy learnt that Mary's letters to Balfour had been in the British Museum, along with the rest of Balfour's political papers, but had been withdrawn by Mary's descendants, who were infuriated by the way Kenneth Young treated her in his biography of Balfour. Percy tracked them down to a linen cupboard in Gloucestershire, wrapped in brown paper bundles, alongside Balfour's letters to Mary.

What comes across best is a picture of the daily lives and pursuits of the rich and well-connected during the closing years of Queen Victoria's reign and up to 1914. Balfour and Mary Elcho were founders, together with the ebullient Tennant sisters, of the Souls, so nicknamed, it was said, by Vice-Admiral Lord Charles Beresford who remarked over dinner one day on the obsessive interest that their set seemed to have in their souls. The Souls were rebels against the Victorian habits of their parents' generation, against too much religion and too many charitable good works. In place of God they put friendship: in place of food and



Mary Elcho, by Burne-Jones

gardening, art and literature. The Souls excelled at conversation, at the art of witty repartee and at being charming. Balfour, singularly laconic and charming, was their high priest.

Neither Mary Elcho nor Balfour, however, was a remarkable or inspired letter-writer, and their exchanges would certainly be dull were it not for the comprehensive annotations. The editors have done an excellent job with linking passages and footnotes, bringing alive otherwise unexceptional occasions and flat characters.

Were Balfour and Lady Elcho lovers? In a letter written several years after their first meeting, Mary referred to a "gear-changing" incident that had taken place one day in Balfour's sitting room while he was reading Rider Haggard's *She*. From that moment on, she seems to imply, the nature of their friendship became more intense.

But at a time when flirtations were almost the rule in society, there was never talk of a liaison between her and Balfour. The only perceptible change in the tone of her letters comes after her affair with Wilfred Blunt and the birth of a daughter known to be Blunt's.

Her valditory letter to Balfour, written in 1929, is both more revealing of her feelings than anything she ever wrote before, and a fitting end to their long friendship. "I think we have been successful in altering, adjusting the friendship-gear without jerks or creakings or open rupture... Surely we have done it as adroitly as any? and the lengthening shadows are not bereft of magic and charm."

Golden hoard of the Nibelungen

Harold James

BUNDESBANK
The Bank that Rules Europe
By David Marsh
Heinemann, £18.99

with National Socialism: and then about the immediate precursor of the Bundesbank, the Bank deutscher Länder which functioned between 1948 and 1957.

There are substantial continuities (a great many Bundesbank officials of the 1950s and 1960s had been Nazi party members), and some striking historical parallels. Wartime plans for a Europe financially reorganised on the basis of a mark zone can be regarded as structurally similar to the monetary order in Europe in the 1980s. There is plenty of material here to guarantee that every critic of the Bundesbank will carry this book.

The most revealing part, however, concerns the most recent period. This shows the Bundesbank at its best. On the basis of extensive interviews, Marsh has constructed an authoritative account of the tensions between the bank and the German government over the currency union with East Germany, over moves toward European monetary union, and over the financing of German reunification. Chancellor Kohl, although ruling over one of the three largest economies in the world, is not much interested in economics. When the Bundesbank president Karl Otto Pöhl expressed

his scepticism about monetary union — German and European — Kohl did not bother to reply to the banker's letters, or even acknowledge them.

Marsh has listened to Pöhl, and prefers economic rationality to political instinct. But he adds a note of criticism in discussing the austere anti-inflationary message that has become the Bundesbank's mantra. He suggests that the German economy has suffered as a result of the periodic monetary shocks administered by the Bundesbank.

It is certainly true that Germany has experienced business cycles. It is also true that every German government at some time fell out with the central bank, and that the bankers were quite proud to have demonstrated their autonomy. But it would be wrong to conclude that a more expansive approach could have generated more long-term growth than Germany experienced in the post-war years. Relative price stability created the framework for rational investment decisions that in the long run worked to Germany's benefit.

Marsh tells the story of modern Germany as the clash between two institutions, a government answerable to parliament, the parties,

public opinion and the press, and a central bank responsible to no one. Sometimes this theme leads to simplifications. The Bundesbank has frequently been internally divided, and outside institutions often critically influenced the German debate. In describing the first conflict, of October 1950, when the Bank deutscher Länder raised interest rates, Marsh ignores the crucial role played by the advice of the chief economist of the Basle-based Bank for International Settlements.

In general, though, Marsh offers a compelling diagnosis of the German problem, which is in essence that of any political system that places itself under a self-limiting institutional restraint. Who is at fault when the restraint becomes painful? The present crisis in the European system has its roots in the fiscal problems of Germany after reunification, rather than in the Bundesbank's inappropriate policy.

The present crisis reveals the fragility of Germany's post-war achievement. The Bundesbank cannot make growth permanent through its policy, any more than any other central bank can. At the same time, the delicate relationship between independent central banks and government can be disturbed, and even destroyed, by an inappropriate fiscal policy.

Marsh reminds us from time to time how precarious is the Bundesbank's position. There are many things that the "bank that rules Europe" does not rule. They include the development of the German economy, international levels of savings and investments (and so of real interest levels), and the German government. Stage villains are frightening, but often powerless.

and a belief that Britain's troubles can be put down to "class-ridden amateurism" often undermine his managerial objectivity. He acknowledges, for instance, that if efficiency were the criterion, the Lords would be left alone, yet he sees them as an affront because they reinforce "social class divisions". He does not see that the real reason for reform is that a second chamber that can offend a Tory government but dare not offend a Labour government for fear of abolition is simply too weak.

His failure to bring political objectivity to his analysis is shown above all by his belief in the divine inevitability of Euro-federalism. The Danish referendum, he says, may bring "some pause in the move to federalism, but progress will resume before long". He rightly wants improved Westminster scrutiny of EC affairs. But he shows no interest in the right of Parliament to decide whether Maastricht will set us on the road to *de facto* federalism from which there would be no turning back, and if so to reject it in the name of the nation it represents.



"After the all-clear... Berliners leave the bunker below the new Reichsbank." This building, off Kurstrasse, is still the Berlin headquarters of the Reichsbank's successor, the Bundesbank. One of numerous photographs in Tony Le Tissier's *Berlin: Then and Now* (published next month by After The Battle, £39.95)

Is Parliament on short commons?

Ronald Butt

WESTMINSTER
Does Parliament Work?

By John Garrett
Gollancz, £17.99

mons over coal, and the bitter reminder from the former chairman of the energy committee of the Commons that, over the past five or six years, his committee has produced reports pointing precisely to the present dilemma, which the government ignored.

Garrett might also think about why the Treasury select committee, of which he is a member, achieved nothing when it recently grilled the Chancellor, Norman Lamont, on economic policy. Because the television cameras were broadcasting the proceedings live, the Opposi-

tion members of the committee could not resist the temptation to concentrate on embarrassing Lamont over his failed predictions and with exhortations to resign, at the expense of more objective persistence in probing his policy. They fell into just the confrontational style Garrett despises.

So let us not be beguiled into thinking that more "powerful" committees would guarantee better mainstream policies. Since our constitution makes the government dependent on a parliamentary majority, MPs will normally rally to their own side when their party interest is at stake, which gives stability to our government. But there are exceptions. One is the committees dealing with more bipartisan questions such as the environment. Another is the ability of government backbenchers to force concessions on bills. But above all there is the right and duty of a government's own MPs to vote

against it in the higher public interest if they believe that failure to do so would cause what they regard as irredeemable damage.

This system, which impels Parliament both to support a government and also to control it, brings great benefits. But Garrett does not rate it highly. If we were starting "from scratch", he doubts "whether the Westminster system would be a starter". He prefers the American separation of powers — despite its tendency to produce the kind of shoddy presidential election that is now reaching its climax and its lack of our healthy ability to shed a prime minister on personal or policy grounds in mid-term.

The book is informative about parliamentary nuts-and-bolts and its ideas for improving the mechanics of legislation and investigation are stimulating. Unfortunately, what Garrett calls his biases as a "Europhil Tribune with a deep distrust of civil service mandarins",

Last week Parliament demonstrated for the history books the true nature of its ultimate power and function, by forcing the government to retreat from its peregrinary plan to close 31 of Britain's remaining 50 coal mines. Parliament reminded us that its fundamental place in the constitution still rests on the obligation of ministers to lay their proposals before it, and on its right and power to refuse them consent.

Enough Conservatives who accepted neither the economic justification nor the social cost of the government's policy had made it clear that if the government refuses time for a fully objective enquiry, they will defeat it in the Commons. If, at the end of the enquiry, the government still does not satisfy Parliament, it will face the same threat again. Yet it is still rather smart to despise the proceedings in the full House as a charade and to argue that Parliament can best be made more effective by concentrating power in the committees that enquire into departmental policies and those that scrutinise bills.

This is the opinion of John

Tenant forfeited right to buy

Muir Group Housing Association Ltd v Thornley and Another
Before Lord Justice Giddens, Lord Justice Mann and Lord Justice Leggatt
[Reasons October 8]

The loss by a secure tenant of his status entitled a landlord to refuse to convey an estate in a dwelling-house even though all matters relating to the grant had been agreed between the parties.

The Court of Appeal so held in giving its reserved reasons for allowing on September 22 an appeal brought by the plaintiff, Muir Group Housing Association Ltd, against the decision of Judge Blackburn on January 14, 1992 at Stockport County Court (Q) to discontinue the plaintiff's claim for possession of 23 Parrymead, Woodley, Stockport and (B) on the counterclaim of the defendants, Wilbraham George Thornley and Anita May Thornley, to order the plaintiff to grant them an estate in fee simple absolute.

Mr John Martin, QC, for the plaintiff, Mr Jeffrey Terry for the defendants.

LORD JUSTICE MANN said that in June 1980 the plaintiff granted the defendants a monthly tenancy of 23 Parrymead which was a secure tenancy. In May 1989 the defendants served a written notice claiming to exercise the right to buy the freehold. The plaintiff served a notice admitting the defendants' right to buy.

By July 9, 1990 all matters relating to the grant of the freehold had been agreed and completion was to take place on August 31.

However, towards the end of July the plaintiff discovered that the defendants had moved out of the house on taking up a three-year residential warden appointment and had also sub-let the whole of the house on an assured shorthold tenancy.

The sub-letting was a breach of a condition of the 1980 tenancy agreement and it had the independent statutory effect of the tenancy ceasing to be a secure tenancy and the defendants ceasing to be secure tenants under section 93(2) of the Housing Act 1985.

The plaintiff informed the defendants that because of the sub-letting the sale would not proceed and on November 27 sent them a notice to quit which expired on December 31. The house was not vacated and proceedings for possession were commenced.

The defence was that the plaintiff was under a statutory duty to grant the defendants a fee simple absolute in the house.

Judge Blackburn found that the defendants had not fully realised that sub-letting was a breach of the tenancy agreement or might affect their right to buy and was satisfied that the defendants' right to buy had crystallised by July 9.

In his Lordship's judgment there was a four-stage process in exercising the right to buy. The first was the claim to exercise the right to buy. The fourth was that of grant. The intermediate second and third stages were those of the establishment of the right and the agreement on or determination of the terms of the grant.

Mr Terry submitted that the

status of secure tenants had to exist at the time of the claim and of admission but that its loss thereafter was irrelevant so that it exposed the tenants to the risk of a possession order which, by reason of section 121 of the 1985 Act, would prevent the achievement of stage three.

He submitted that the phrase "secure tenant" and "tenant" were employed deliberately and not interchangeably.

His Lordship found Mr Terry's argument unconvincing. 1 The word "tenant" could be an abbreviation of "secure tenant": see for example section 125(1).

2 Section 139(2) did not require a secure tenancy, but used the definite article thereby presupposing more strongly than the provision relied upon by Lord Justice Ackner in *Sutton LBC v Swann* (1985) 18 HLR 140 that there was a secure tenancy immediately before the grant.

3 Section 155(1) presupposed that the grantee was "the secure tenant".

4 Under section 118(1) it was a secure tenant who was given the right to buy and the right was described as being "the right, in the circumstances... stated in the following provisions of this Part... to acquire the freehold of the dwelling-house". Those words enacted the assumption that throughout the stated circumstances there was a person who was at first "a" secure tenant and who matured into "the" secure tenant.

5 Section 155 actually decided in favour of the assumption which his Lordship had identified.

Accordingly, a tenant who had ceased to be a secure tenant had no right which he could enforce under section 138(3). That conclusion accorded with his Lordship's belief that most people would find it surprising if Parliament had enacted a right to buy provisions which enabled a person to acquire a house at a discount when he no longer occupied it as his only or principal home.

The question which the instant case answered was quite different from the question as to when the right to buy was exercised by a secure tenant. Upon that question, which arose primarily under section 121, the law was stated in *Enfield Council v McKee* (1986) 1 WLR 1007 and *Dance v Wehman Hatfield DC* (1990) 1 WLR 1097. They had a reconcilable relationship but the reasoning in the latter was damaged by the conclusion in the former.

Lord Justice Leggatt agreed and Lord Justice Giddens delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Mason & Moore Dutton, Chester; Chronel Fitzpatrick & Jones, Hyde.

Legal aid test same as for leave

Regina v Legal Aid Board, Ex parte Hughes
Before Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Staughton and Lord Justice Nolan
[Judgment July 23]

The test to be applied by a legal aid committee in satisfying itself that an applicant had reasonable grounds for bringing proceedings for judicial review was in essence the same as the single judge applied when he considered whether or not to grant leave to move, namely, whether or not the applicant had *prima facie* an arguable case.

The Court of Appeal so stated allowing an appeal by Gina Marie Hughes from Mr Justice Kennedy (The Times March 6) who had dismissed her application for judicial review of the North West Area Committee of the Legal Aid Board. The committee had rejected her appeal from the deputy area director who had refused to grant her legal aid to pursue her application for judicial review of a decision of Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council that she had

become intentionally homeless. Mr George Warr for Ms Hughes, Mr Charles Uley for the Legal Aid Board.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that section 15(2) of the Legal Aid Act 1988 provided that legal aid was not to be granted unless the applicant satisfied the board that "he has reasonable grounds for taking... the proceedings".

That according to the *Legal Aid Handbook* 1992 was described as the legal merits test whereby the board was required to ask itself, on the facts put forward and the relevant law, there was a case which should be put before the court.

In answering that question likelihood of success was expressed to be a factor. The aim was not to be over-cautious but not to grant legal aid where there was little or no hope of success.

His Lordship referred to the decision of Mr Justice Poppelwell granting leave to move for judicial review. The judge had observed that the matter would have to be carefully reviewed in the light of the council's documents.

On appeal from the deputy area director the factual material was the same save that the area committee knew of the judge's grant of leave but not of his observations.

His Lordship did not accept, as Mr Justice Kennedy had done, that the tests to be applied by the single judge and the board were essentially different things had the question been put in the form of *inter alia*, that the affidavit sworn by that judge failed fairly or fully to set out material facts.

[1982] AC 617, 644) where Lord Diplock had stated that leave to move for judicial review ought to be granted if on a quick perusal of the material available the court thought that on further consideration the applicant might have an arguable case.

On an *ex parte* application, leave ought only to be given if *prima facie* there was already clearly an arguable case for granting the relief claimed. That was not necessarily to be determined on a "quick perusal of the material", although any in-depth examination was inappropriate.

Equally, it was only where *prima facie* there was clearly no arguable case that leave should be refused *ex parte*. There was, however, a middle ground relating to a small category of cases where more information was needed. In such cases it was appropriate to adjourn the application for an *inter partes* hearing which would be quite different from a substantive hearing in that the respondent needed only to summarise its answer sufficiently to enable the judge to decide whether or not there was an arguable case.

The present case, which left many questions unanswered, was such a case and Mr Justice Poppelwell should have adopted that latter course.

Apart from that, the case illustrated the need for an independent specialist tribunal to deal with homeless persons cases.

While it was for the area committee to make up its own mind, the question of leave to move was in essence no different from that asked by the judge. He had only

asked himself whether the case made by the applicant was such that there were reasonable grounds for leave being granted to begin proceedings which would inevitably involve the respondent in civil and administrative uncertainty.

The committee asked itself whether the applicant's case was such that there were reasonable grounds for granting representation under the legal aid scheme which would probably, if not inevitably, involve some cost to the public purse.

Just as the judge should have adjourned the applicant's *ex parte* application for an *inter partes* hearing, so the area committee fell into a related error. Like the judge it looked to the prospects for the ultimate outcome of the substantive application for judicial review at a time when it had inadequate information.

His Lordship did not know how it had been able to conclude that the applicant's case was weak with small prospects of success. The committee misdirected itself in failing to take into account the possibility of granting limited legal aid for the purpose of evaluating the council's evidence filed in response to the grant of leave. His Lordship would therefore quash the decision and remit the matter to the board for further consideration.

Lord Justice Staughton delivered a judgment concurring in the result and Lord Justice Nolan agreed with the Master of the Rolls.

Solicitors: Mr H. R. Vincent, Oldham; Collyer-Bristow.

Behaviour deplored

Patel and Another v Sharraby
It was utterly deplored for the solicitor to a party to an action, who had secured *ex parte* a Mareva injunction on the basis of an affidavit, to distribute copies of that affidavit to persons not party to the action.

Mr Justice Millett so stated in the Chancery Division on September

25 when discharging a Mareva injunction granted *ex parte* to the defendants, El Hussein Sharraby and Moheeb Sharraby, by Mr Justice Chadwick on September 10, on the ground, *inter alia*, that the affidavit sworn by the plaintiff's solicitor, Mr C. J. D. C. that the injunction failed fairly or fully to set out material facts.

Scots Law Report October 29 1992

Boundary between estates follows new course of river channel

Stirling v Bartlett
Before Lord Coulsfield
[Judgment August 11]

Where a river formed a boundary and the owners of the land on either side by agreement altered the course of the river by excavating a channel, the case was one of *alluvio* rather than *avulsion*, and the boundary followed the new course of the river.

Lord Coulsfield, sitting in the Outer House of the Court of Session, so held, granting decree of interdict against William Bartlett in an action brought by Robert William Kenneth Stirling.

Mr Peter Ferguson for Mr Stirling; Mr Colin Macaulay, QC and Mr Ian Truscott for Mr Bartlett.

LORD COULSFIELD said that

the River Orrin rose in the remote hills of the East Monar forest and pursued a generally eastward course until it made a sharp turn towards the north to join the River Conon near the ruins of Brannan Castle.

For some distance shortly before it joined the Conon it constituted the boundary between the lands owned by the pursuer and those of the defender.

The parties were agreed that, in accordance with the normal rule, the boundary was the *medium filium*. However, the precise course of the river was liable to alter.

In February, 1966, there had been a large flood which brought down substantial quantities of gravel and trees, tree roots and other rubbish, which material had been deposited and caused the

river to become widely spread and divided into a number of shallow channels.

In consequence, it had been decided by the then proprietors, that a clear channel for the river should be dug out, and that had been done by a bulldozer.

Some time after 1983, the defender had constructed a secondary channel on his eastern side of the river, divided from the main channel by a gravel bank, which took a proportion of the flow of the river for a fish farm.

As a result of those operations, the main channel of the Orrin had moved some distance towards the west from its position. It had occupied after the excavation of the new channel.

In brief, the dispute between the parties was whether the line of

their boundary was now represented by the *medium filium* of the main channel (that is, the channel excavated following the 1966 flood) as it now was after taking account of the effects of the later operations in the construction of a secondary channel or a line further to the west, representing the position of the *medium filium* of the main channel of the river, prior to 1966.

There had been evidence that the 1967 channel had been intended to follow the line where, at that time, the principal flow of water had been, but the photographic record suggested that the excavation had not followed any principal channel existing at that date.

The pursuer's position was that the construction of the channel had been a lawful operation car-

ried out by agreement of the various proprietors involved and had to be taken as fixing their boundary. On the other hand, the contention of the defender was that if in 1967 a new channel had been built which moved the Orrin some distance to the east, in law the boundary did not move with it.

It was well established that where the course of a river, which constituted the boundary between two properties, changed by the gradual and imperceptible addition or subtraction of soil on either bank or the other, the boundary shifted in accordance with the movement of the river. That was an application of the principle of *alluvio*.

On the other hand, where the course of a river changed in a sudden and violent way, whether by the operation of natural forces or with human assistance, the boundary did not change. That was an application of the principle of *avulsion*.

The principles were stated in the *Institutes of Justinian* (1.1.20) and little has been added to them in subsequent centuries (see *Attorney General for Southern Nigeria v Holt* (1915) AC 599). Some assistance could, however, be obtained from the opinion of Justice Brewer in *Nebraska v Iowa* (1892)

US Reports 359), concerning the River Missouri, which was a winding stream, liable to rapid flows of large volumes of water from melting snows and flowed through a valley in which the underlying substratum was largely quicksand.

In consequence, it was not uncommon for large masses of soil to be detached from a bank at one time and carried away, although they were not swept away to be deposited at one place. Justice Brewer said that a case in which the river suddenly changed course, for example, by cutting through the neck of a bend, would be treated as one of *avulsion*.

The significance of the case was that it indicated that although the changes which constituted accretion had been gradual and imperceptible in the sense that at any given time they could not be seen to occur, they need not be gradual in the sense of occurring slowly over a period of years, or even months. It was sufficient if they occurred in such a way that the boundary for the time being, and in subsequent centuries (see *Attorney General for Southern Nigeria v Holt* (1915) AC 599). Some assistance could, however, be obtained from the opinion of Justice Brewer in *Nebraska v Iowa* (1892)

US Reports 359), concerning the River Missouri, which was a winding stream, liable to rapid flows of large volumes of water from melting snows and flowed through a valley in which the underlying substratum was largely quicksand.

acquiescence (*Marquis of Tweeddale v Kerr* (1822) 1 S 397).

The defender, founding on *Attorney General for Southern Nigeria v Holt*, submitted that a change in the course of a river brought about by artificial means could not bring about a change in ownership.

However, that case did not go so far as to exclude the possibility that a channel created by artificial work carried out with the consent of both proprietors might fall to be regarded as the river channel for the purpose of fixing the boundary for the time being.

In the present case, there was no reason to think that the boundary before 1967 should not have been the mid-line of the main channel, wherever that then was. The effect of the flood had been virtually to leave the river without any main channel.

It seemed to his Lordship that, given the fluctuations to which the Orrin was liable, it was common sense to treat the channel dug in 1967 as being the channel of the river for the purpose of fixing the boundary for the time being, and in subsequent centuries (see *Attorney General for Southern Nigeria v Holt* (1915) AC 599). Some assistance could, however, be obtained from the opinion of Justice Brewer in *Nebraska v Iowa* (1892)

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wholly new artificial channel had been created, nor a case in which a change had been brought about by the actions of one proprietor alone.

It was a case in which the proprietors had agreed to restore a channel which had been effectively destroyed, and it was in his Lordship's view entirely consistent with principle to regard the mid-line of that channel as the boundary.

There had been some subsequent movement of the channel, and on the principles which had been discussed, the channel as it now was had to represent the present boundary.

A further consideration which supported that approach was that if the mid-line of the present channel was not to be taken to be the boundary, it was not easy to see where the boundary in fact was.

It was not possible to go back over the history of the river movements and determine a *medium filium* which had at one time been the boundary and which had later been departed from in such a way as to leave the boundary unaffected.

Law agents: Dundas & Wilson, CS; Morton Fraser Milligan, WS; for Middleton Ross & Arnot, Dingwall.

Decree to trade incompetent as too vague

Postal Properties Ltd v Miller and Sandhu
Before Lord Sutherland
[Judgment July 9]

It was incompetent to pronounce decree ordaining tenants to occupy and trade from a shop of which they had taken a lease because such an order was too vague.

Lord Sutherland, sitting in the Outer House of the Court of Session, so held, dismissing an action of specific implement and damages brought by Postal Properties Ltd against Miller and Sandhu plc.

Mr Colin Sutherland, QC and Mr Robert Skinner for the pursuers; Mr Arthur Hamilton, QC and Mr Gilmour Ivey for the defenders.

LORD SUTHERLAND said that the pursuers as landlords sought decree ordaining the defendants to occupy and trade from the premises leased to them to occupy the premises and trade from the shop of which they had taken a lease because such an order was too vague.

The obligation to occupy and use premises and carry on a business therein involved continuous acts of management in which multiple decisions were required and it also required decisions over a period of 42 years as to what at any one time was commonly sold in supermarkets. The tenants would have had difficulty in deciding at any given time whether they were acting in breach of it or not.

An order from the court had to be precise and specific so that the defenders knew throughout the period when the order was enforced exactly what they were required to do and what they were prohibited from doing.

Moreover, in the present case the tenants had argued that all that the lease said was that the premises had to be kept and used solely for the purpose of retail trade, which was purely a restrictive clause and did not provide any positive obligation.

In reply, counsel for the pursuers argued a specific implement was a normal remedy which should be granted unless there was

some special hardship or exceptional circumstances or implement was impossible (*White & Carter (Councils) Ltd v McGregor* (1962) SC (HL) 1; *Salisbury Staff London Ltd v Stevens and Wells Ltd* (1985) SLT 326).

It was for the defenders to aver and prove what such exceptional circumstances would be and if they were unable to do so they had no answer to a claim for implement. It was no answer for a party in breach to say that it appeared that the contract into which he had entered had become unduly onerous.

There was nothing exceptional in a company trading at a loss in times of recession and equally there was nothing unusual in a company finding difficulty in obtaining alternative tenants for such premises.

The tenants' averments which purported to show that there were some exceptional circumstances which would justify the court in exercising its equitable jurisdiction to refuse a decree for specific implement were irrelevant; decree should be granted *de plano*.

In his Lordship's opinion the obligation "to keep and use the premises solely as retail premises" was intended to be a positive obligation. Had it been intended to be a negative restriction, it would have been perfectly possible to have expressed it as an obligation

not to keep and use the leased premises other than as retail premises.

However, it did not necessarily follow that it could be made the subject of an order for implement. Where what was required to be done by one party was not a clear and specific act to be performed at a clear and specific time, but was simply a general duty to be performed over a long period during which circumstances might change, his Lordship considered that the inevitable aura of vagueness which must surround any such proposition was fatal to a party seeking an order *ad factum praestandum*.

It would not do for the pursuers simply to say that everybody knew what was meant by occupying a shop and everybody knew what was meant by using a shop as retail premises.

If that argument was valid, all that would be required of the pursuers' conclusion would be an order ordaining the defenders to carry out their obligations under the lease without giving any further specification of what they were to do.

It was clear that the Court would never pronounce such an order. The present case was indistinguishable from *Grosvenor Developments*.

Law agents: Tods Murray, WS; Archibald Campbell & Harley, WS.

Televised evidence order refused

HM Advocate v Birkett
Before the Lord Justice-Clerk (Lord Ross)
[Judgment July 17]

Where children aged between four and six were to give evidence regarding the use of a knife, and a child aged eight who had a close relationship with the accused was to give evidence against him, there were insufficient grounds to order that their evidence be taken by a television link instead of in open court.

The Lord Justice-Clerk (Lord Ross) so held in the High Court of Justiciary, refusing *in hoc statu* a petition by the Lord Advocate for an order under section 56 of the Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Scotland) Act 1990.

Section 56 provides: "(1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3) below, where a child has been cited to give evidence in a trial, the court may, on an application being made to it, authorise the giving of evidence by the child by means of a live television link.

"(2) The court may grant an application under subsection (1) above only on cause shown having regard in particular to (a) the possible effect on a child if required to give evidence, or such applica-

tion having been granted; and (b) where it is likely that the child would be better able to give evidence if such application were granted.

"(3) In considering whether to grant an application... the court may take into account, where appropriate, any of the following - (a) the age and maturity of the child, (b) the nature of the alleged offence, (c) the nature of the evidence which the child is likely to be called on to give, and (d) the relationship, if any, between the child and the accused."

Mr Roderick McDonald, QC and Mr Iain Bonomy for the Lord Advocate; Miss Margaret Scott for Mr Birkett.

THE LORD JUSTICE-CLERK said that the application was not opposed in respect of one of the children, who was aged three. However, the petition also concerned two children aged six and eight who were said to be quiet and hesitant and to require to give traumatic evidence.

The eight year old felt loyalty both to his mother, the complainant, and to the accused, with whom he had a close relationship. It was felt that there was divided loyalty in his case.

The remaining two children, aged four and six, were said to require to give evidence of a frightening nature regarding the use of a knife. It was said of all the children that they would be better able to give evidence outwith the accused's presence.

Miss Scott had stressed that it was not suggested that the children were frightened and embarrassed that age was not in itself a sufficient ground. The two older children had had a close relationship with the accused, whereas the other two were not related to him or to the complainant and they had not lived in the same household as them.

She had recognised that the children would be speaking to a somewhat frightening event, but had emphasised that that would be so whether they gave evidence in open court or by means of a live television link. It was not a case involving sexual abuse.

His Lordship was not satisfied that cause had been shown at that stage for the granting of the application.

On the other hand his Lordship was conscious that difficulties might be encountered when the evidence of the children was sought to be taken in open court

and was anxious that at that stage, the trial judge, if he thought fit, could order that the evidence of the children should be taken by means of a television link.

The Crown agreed that it would not be incompetent to consider the application for consideration by the trial judge, but considered that it would be undesirable to do so, because steps had to be taken before the trial to put the children at ease.

They were given guidance by procurator fiscal, and were visited before the trial and it was explained to them where they would have to stand when giving their evidence. It would be unsatisfactory to leave the arrangements uncertain.

In the circumstances, his Lordship had, however, refused to grant the application *in hoc statu* in order to emphasise that the time of the trial, and if it appeared appropriate to the trial judge to order that the evidence of the children should be taken by means of a television link, he would be able to do so by making an order in terms of the petition.

Law agents: Crown Agent, Andrew Hadden & Crowe, Hawick.

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From pigeon post to satellites

Sending information around the world ever faster has made Reuters the leader in its field.
Jonathan Pryn reports

For most companies, the recent turmoil in the foreign exchange markets has introduced yet another unwelcome element of instability and anxiety into their already difficult trading environments. Not, however, at Reuters, the doyen of international news-gathering organisations. The company supplies the raw material that drives the decision-making processes of boardrooms, trading floors and governments around the world — information. Never is that commodity in such great demand as at times of turmoil.

Far more importantly for Reuters' profits, the great international news events, on which the company's 1,200 journalists, photographers and camera operators report, drive the financial markets, increasing the use and sales of the company's trading screens.

The huge volumes of capital flowing across the foreign exchanges in September brought a welcome bout of frenetic trading to the markets after two years of depressed activity during the global economic slowdown.

Even so, the glory days of the 1980s, when the huge growth in international financial markets pushed Reuters profits ahead more than 80 fold in ten years, remain a golden memory. The company's profits continue to rise, but the rate of growth in revenue from what are now fairly mature markets is subsiding. Turnover in the first half of this year grew only 6.1 per cent compared with a little more than 7 per cent last year. Since 1989, the number of Reuters terminals in use around the dealing rooms of the world has increased from 194,750 to 202,180 by the end of the first half of this year.

Obviously, the number of information products termi-



Sir Christopher confident



On the spot: Toshio Kojima, Tokyo reporter, takes notes at the scene of the Japan Air Lines jumbo jet crash in 1985

nals actually fell by 200 during the first half of 1992. But the Reuters board, chaired since 1984 by Sir Christopher Hogg, has no intention of marching into an entirely new business area in the search for growth markets. Rather, the company will go on with its policy of continually developing new products within its specialised fields of news dissemination and financial trading systems.

Ever since Paul Julius Reuter, the founder of the company, used pigeon post to bridge the gap in European telegraph lines in 1850, Reuters has proved adept at developing or exploiting new modes of communication. A recent example has been the move into television-based news reporting. In July, Reuters bought out the 49 per cent that it did not already own of Visnews, the television news network with 35 offices around the world.

The move, though not earth-shattering in itself, adds yet another information source to be fed into the banks and securities houses where Reuters has its dealing screens. Although the technology is not available for commercial sale yet, the idea is to

Published today is *The Power of News, The History of Reuters*, by Donald Read, of Kent University (OUP, £20).

develop screens that double up as data, display units and television screens showing reports from Visnews.

Just reading what the American president has to say about the markets may not be enough, runs the argument. The dealer might want to be able to read the president's face, or perhaps his lips, as he makes his statement live on television.

A move of possibly even greater importance was announced on October 13, when Reuters emerged as one of the investors in a proposed £30-million takeover of ITN.

Exciting developments of this kind are a far cry from the traditional image of Reuters — objective and highly respected in its news coverage but old-fashioned and unimaginative in its professional management. For the most of this century, shareholders in Reuters did not expect to see the

Beating off challengers

Instant news is a constant demand of the late 20th century, and one that a growing number of sources are striving to meet. Despite determined competition from rival agencies and a proliferation of 24-hour satellite news channels, Reuters has maintained its position as the world's pre-eminent news-gatherer for more than a century.

Reuters boasts 118 bureaux worldwide, staffed by more than 1,200 journalists filing news copy and photographs 24 hours a day to nearly 3,000 media clients. Daily monitoring of a revolving selection of 50 newspapers around the world reveals that Reuters accounts for more than 50 per cent of all credited wire service use in all continents except North America, where its main rival, the US Associated Press (AP), dominates.

Until earlier this year, when Reuters revised its pricing structure with the introduction of different tariffs for tabloids, mid-market and broadsheet newspapers, it had 100 per cent coverage of the UK media market. The *Daily Telegraph* dropped Reuters for Agence France Presse (AFP) after a 120 per cent price rise. The *Economist*, facing a 350 per cent price rise, also switched to AFP for a trial period before coming to "a new arrangement" with Reuters. The *Sunday Times* saw its monthly Reuters bill rise from £1,900 to £7,890, but sister titles at News International, such as *The Sun*, *Today* and *News of the World*, saw their bills cut.

At the time, Nigel Wade, *The Telegraph's* foreign



Wood: changes

editor, insisted that Reuters was dropped on grounds of cost, not quality — a point Mark Wood, the editor-in-chief of Reuters, wants to emphasise. "We hope *The Daily Telegraph* will come back. There has been some grumbling about the price rises, but the group has not made any extra money from the new tariff structure," he says. Media clients account for only 6 per cent of Reuters' overall revenue.

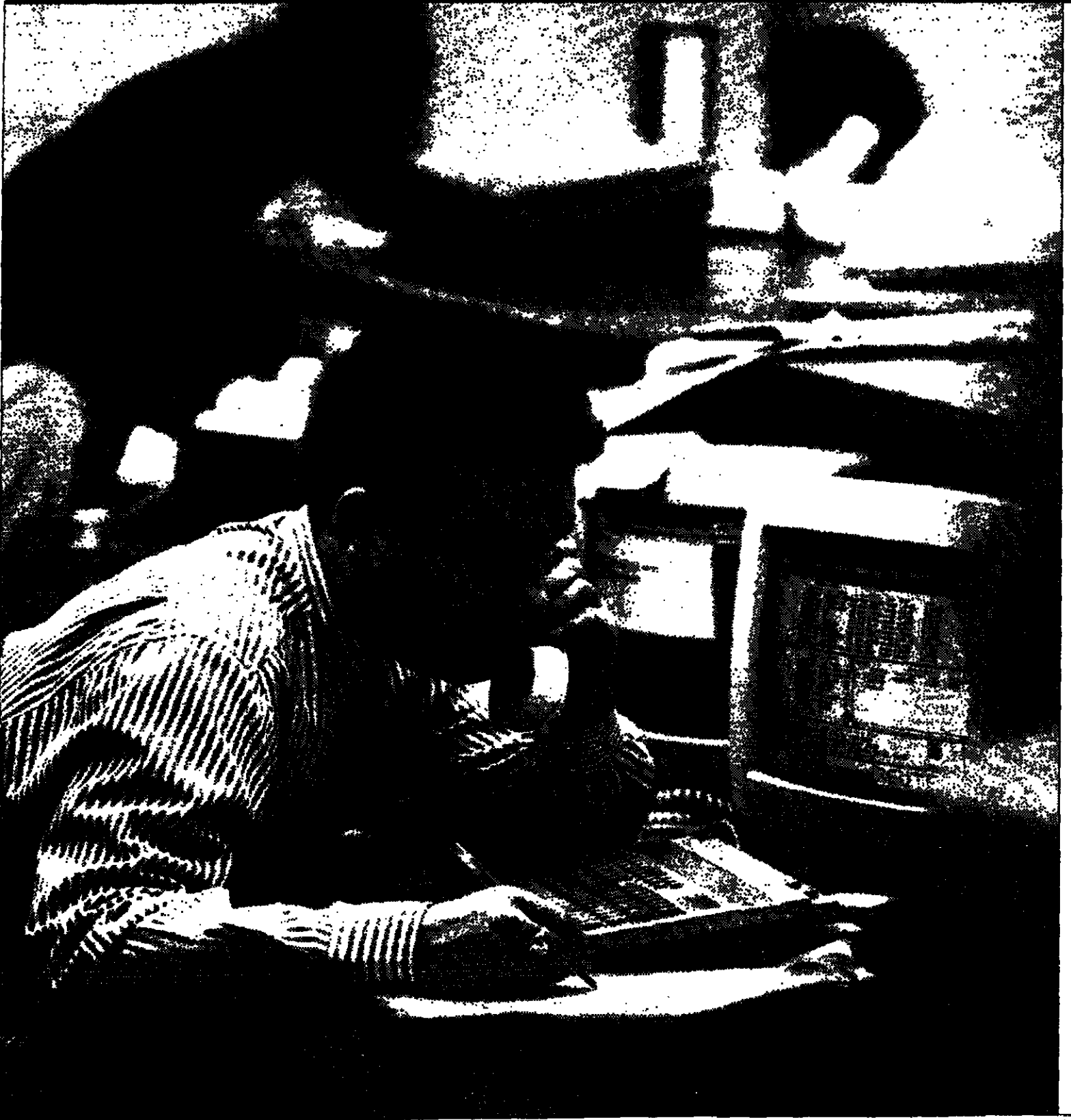
Reuters, which says *The Telegraph's* bill was equivalent to the cost of two staff foreign correspondents, is adamant that its wire services will be in increasing demand because recession-inspired cost-cutting at most British newspapers has resulted in the closure of foreign bureaux.

Mr Wood says "wordage" used by British newspapers has more than doubled in the past four or five years. "What newspaper now has a bureau in Kiev or Bombay as we do?" he says. Mr Wood is dismissive of those who argue that 24-hour news channels such as CNN, BBC World Service Television and Sky News will make traditional wire agencies redundant.

He agrees that during the Gulf war, CNN "changed the game a bit", but claims that television news will never be able to provide the same depth because many important news stories do not translate into pictures and in any case require the sort of analysis that TV is loath to provide. Besides, he adds, all the TV news channels are Reuters clients.

MELINDA WITTSTOCK
Media correspondent

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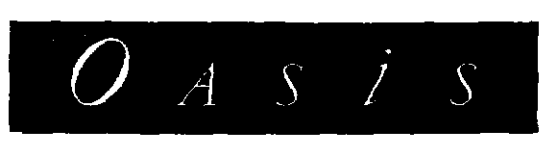
The results of the transformation are clearly visible and have been achieved in partnership with Reuters through a multi-million pound re-engineering of business processes.

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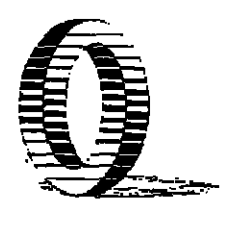
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Every second counts

Few people would envy Peter Job his position. He is the managing director and chief executive of Reuters, whose reputation depends on the speed and accuracy of its journalists, in a world where seconds count for everything. The company's latest annual report features scenes from the Russian coup, an item carried by Reuters three minutes and 44 seconds ahead of its competitors.

Mr Job is also the head of a company whose main revenue is derived from selling banking products. The latest interim results revealed a slowdown of revenue growth, but Mr Job is philosophical about the fall in demand for banking products. "The financial markets are always in a state of flux," he says. "There is always something hissing and boiling."

"The equities market in China may not be very interesting now, but in ten years' time that may be different. I do not believe that this activity will stop, but it will be up to us to find where it is."

What will change is the way in which people will apply modern computer technology to make trading in financial markets quicker, fairer and cheaper to operate. Mr Job predicts all sorts of multimedia applications — for example, computers responding to spoken orders from traders and videos of important speeches appearing in a corner of traders' screens.

To deal with such developments, Reuters will have to change its structure. "We need to find out how to spend less time administering, and more time ensuring that the customer gets what he wants," Mr Job says. "For example, wouldn't it be nice if, when a terminal was first turned on in the morning, the screen display most used the day before came up automatically?"

The need to get close to the customer will dictate changes in the geographical structure, too. "We are already extremely decentralised," he says, "but computer technology will make it easier for local competitors. We will have to localise our products more by increasing the flexibility of design and devolving investment. In ten years' time, there will be more power to the elbow of the person nearest the customer."

However, Reuters will not need more employees to deal with the new emphasis. On the contrary, Mr Job considers reducing corporate staff numbers to be the challenge. "The corporate staff should be less concerned with



Peter Job, above, discusses his hopes for the future of the agency as it faces ever tougher competition

detail," he says. "If we can achieve this, we shall know the job is already being done properly locally."

Reuters' news agency business, which produces only between 6 and 7 per cent of total revenues, is also in a state of flux. "Television is developing new dimensions faster than anything in text. The concept of 24-hour news channels is new outside the US. It is not evident that newspapers are changing in the same way," says Mr Job, who admits to a nagging worry about newspapers' loss of readers aged between 18 and 38.

It was his conclusion that "television will multiply, textual media may struggle" that led in July to Reuters taking full control of Visnews, an international television news agency, giving Reuters a more powerful and integrated network than any other agency.

The move has been a long time in the pipeline. "The vision has always been there," says Mr Job, who points out that Reuters has had shares in Visnews since the mid 1950s. Integration of the television people with journalists and photographers will also take "quite a number of years". Barriers



Always in the picture: a Reuters cameraman in the front line

will disappear slowly as, for example, camera equipment gets lighter.

Mr Job concedes that finding an individual who combines the visual expertise of a cameraman with the writing and analytical skills of a journalist is not always easy, but he insists that the organisation will require "interchangeability" and expect "mutual assistance".

He says drily: "If you put them all on a football field and face them all in the right direction, they will see the advantages of working as a team when they see a whole load of burly-looking people charging at them from the other side."

Despite the loss of *The Daily Telegraph* account to Agence France Presse, Mr Job is bullish about the competition. With more than 1,000 journalists in 75 countries, the company is, he believes, unassailable. Other divisions account for another 9,000 employees, but the culture of the organisation is still derived from its journalistic origins. "Journalists like things that move. They are inveterately curious; they like looking at new things," Mr Job says. "Financial markets are not dissimilar."

CLARE HOGG

The telegraph was a godsend to the founder of the company

Words that won over the world

Until the middle of last century, the hottest of news travelled at the speed of a galloping horse. A messenger took three days to ride from Queen Elizabeth's deathbed in London to offer the throne to King James in Edinburgh. London learnt of Napoleon's death in St Helena two months after the event, as long as it took the news of Nelson's victory on the Nile to reach the Admiralty. Reports of Wellington's conquest of the field of Waterloo were raced to *The Times* in a mere four days.

A small and seemingly insignificant event changed all that for ever. On August 6, 1844, the first electric message in Britain was sent by telegraph wire from Windsor to London, announcing the birth of Queen Victoria's second son. Not only Prince Alfred, but also the age of electric and ultimately electronic news transmission were born that day.

In the founding of any successful enterprise, timing is all. Reuters was no exception, and had it not already existed in today's world of electronics and instant news, somebody would invent it pretty quickly.

When the end of the Napoleonic wars brought a period of peace to the Continent, trade and financial speculation grew enormously in Europe, and with it grew the demand for news of stock market prices on the main bourses. The scent of revolution in Paris in 1848 and fears for the stability of the established order sharpened appetites for financial and political news.

Like many other intellectuals and men of letters, Julius Reuter gravitated to Paris that year, abandoning the bookshop he had established in Berlin. He found work as a translator in the *Correspondance Garnier*, an early news agency that collected extracts from European papers and delivered them daily to the French press.

Reuter, a sharp-witted businessman, quickly saw an opportunity in the other direction. He set up his own agency gathering material from French papers and sending it to any subscribers he could find in the German provincial press.

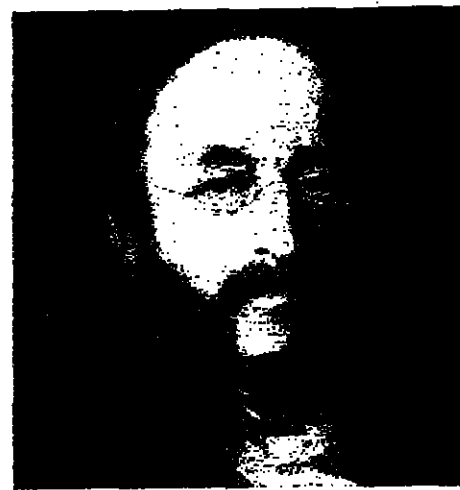
Within a few months, the enterprise had failed, killed off largely by the blanket of censorship that had descended on France in the wake of the abortive revolution. His only hope, lay in commercial news, still available and still much in demand.

The birth of the telegraph gave him his chance. In 1849, the

Prussian state telegraph line opened from Berlin as far as Aachen. Reuter established himself at its western end, offering the service of Berlin bourse closing prices to clients in Aachen.

Soon afterwards, the telegraph opened between Paris and Brussels, leaving a 100-mile gap between Brussels and Aachen that a mail train took nine hours to bridge. Reuter immediately offered a faster service — by pigeon.

News by pigeon was not new. In Antwerp, there were 25,000 working birds, and since 1837 *The Times* had been using them to carry Paris stock prices to Boulogne, where they were put on a



Julius Reuter: sharp-witted opportunist

fast boat for England and Printing House Square. Reuter acquired 40 birds. As soon as the Brussels bourse closed, his agent wrote the prices on tissue paper, placed them in tiny silk bags under the birds' wings, and released them.

Up in the Aachen pigeon loft, Reuter was waiting to detach the bags and distribute the news. Total time of transmission was only two hours. That enterprise, too, failed after eight months. The gap in the telegraph line was closed, and the birds joined the unemployed.

Following the expanding telegraph network, which was starting

to cover the map of Europe in an intricate pattern of crooked wires, Reuter noticed that London had just been connected to Paris by undersea cable. He came to England in 1851 and set up an office near the Stock Exchange. Soon he was supplying the brokers and merchants of London and Paris with the opening and closing prices on the bourses of the two capitals.

As the wires spread across the Continent, so did Reuter's service, soon encompassing every main European stock exchange and broadening to include items of more general news.

Timing again was on Reuter's side. Largely as a result of thundering leaders in *The Times*, the British press was relieved of the burden of stamp duty in 1855, opening the way to the diverse mass-circulation press we know today. In 1854, the total circulation of dailies in Britain was less than 100,000, and half of that was *The Times*. Sixteen years later the *Daily News* alone was selling 150,000 a day. The demand for Reuter's telegrams grew apace.

Not from everybody, however. The extraordinarily grand *Times*, having its own extensive network of foreign correspondents far exceeding that of any other paper, thought it had no need of Reuter's service.

"Your telegraphic summaries of foreign intelligence will not be used by *The Times*," Mowbray Morris, the newspaper's manager, wrote indignantly to Reuter in reply to his offer of the daily exchange rates in Brussels, Amsterdam and Vienna for eight guineas a year.

However, *The Times* was in danger of falling behind the times. Its correspondents, such as W.H. Russell, individually brilliant, were unschooled in the electric age and reluctant to use the new technology of the telegraph. They were accurate, but prone to slowness; the newspaper was being beaten to the news by its penny rivals.

Russell's enormous £5,000 telegraph bill for filing reports of the siege, and subsequent relief of Lucknow after the Indian mutiny in 1857 seem to have contributed to a change of mind at Printing House Square.

In 1858, *The Times* agreed to subscribe to Reuter's telegrams. There has probably not been an edition since that has not, somewhere in its pages, carried a selection of them.

ALAN HAMILTON

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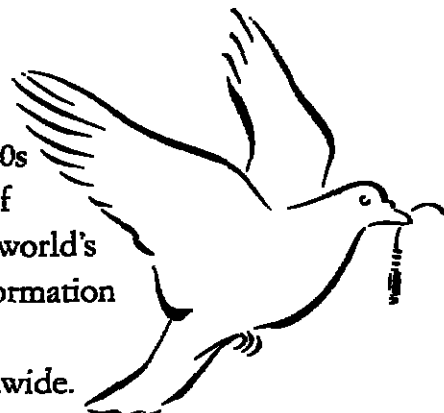
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A dealing room of Standard Chartered Bank, one of the subscribers to the financial services owned by Reuters

New services have changed the style of the big money business

Markets act on screen

THE foreign exchange markets went into meltdown last month, a million million dollars in currency changed hands in a few hours. Perhaps a third of the deals were conducted on an electronic system that has become familiar to dealers around the world since it was introduced nearly 20 years ago. The Reuter Monitor system was opened in June 1973 to serve 250 subscribers. Today, dealing rooms in London, New York and Tokyo are linked to a network that embraces 100,000 terminals in 120 countries.

The success of Monitor and other systems encouraged Reuters to seek a stock market listing in 1984. Profits had quadrupled as new subscribers signed up, and directors and shareholders seized on the opportunity to unlock their capital. Eight years on, the value of Reuters shares has risen from 196p to about £12.

Few appreciated the significance when a small electronic device started appearing in commodity and equity dealing rooms in summer 1964. Stockmaster was the first international computerised information retrieval system.

Reuters had no computer technology of its own nor much capital in June 1964, when it signed a contract with Ultronic Systems Corporation, the American inventor of Stockmaster. The deal gave Reuters worldwide rights outside North America.

Ultronic, founded in 1961 by Radio Corporation of America engineers, fed ticker tape from exchanges and markets to a master computer, which passed it to Stockmaster. Price quotes were flashed out on demand.

Ultronic and Scantlin, its American rival, later to become Quotron, had moved into Europe in 1964 to serve brokerage subscribers in Geneva, London and Paris. Competition intensified when Teletype, a third American quotation service, forced its way into the European market with aggressive pricing. Reuters halved the basic Stockmaster subscription to \$750 a month. Early losses were more

than overcome and Stockmaster made a profit for Reuters every year after 1965.

The task of convincing sceptical European companies of the merits of the expensive system went to Glen Renfrew, later to become managing director. He admits that few people could have foreseen the huge growth in demand. "A survey commissioned by Ultronic originally put the potential European market

At first the idea looked a flop. But soon the system was making huge profits

for Stockmaster at 30 units," Mr Renfrew says. "We thought this was on the low side but did not realise at the time just how low."

By 1968, more than 500 units were in use in Switzerland, the UK, France, Belgium, West Germany and The Netherlands. The first Asian Stockmaster appeared in Hong Kong in 1966, and the service spread to Latin America the next year.

Dealers found they had access to virtually instantaneous quotations and market information on 8,000 American, Canadian and European stocks and commodities. Available data included last traded price, time of trade, current bid and offer, high and low for the day's trading, cumulative volume, dividend and earnings. None of this came cheap. By the mid 1960s, Reuters was borrowing heavily. By 1972, investment in new equipment totalled £1.2 billion a year.

Mr Renfrew and his team began exploiting rivalries between competing stock markets to boost sales. "Gradually, the exchanges came to realise that the new-fangled foreign technology they so feared at first did in fact attract business to

their markets and increased trading volumes dramatically," he says.

The system had one serious drawback: it covered only prices. Without news, dealers were unable to put price movements in context, and it was not until 1970 that Reuters introduced a news service to fill the gap.

Stockmaster helped to make Reuters' name as a provider of real-time information services, but competition for business was, and still is, intense. A race against at least two other rivals to create a computerised financial and news retrieval service resulted in the start of Reuter Monitor Money Rates service in 1973.

After the Bretton Woods Agreement on exchange rates collapsed in 1971, currency dealers could no longer rely on the telex and telephone for their trades. Seconds counted, and the world needed a combined news and trading service.

Monitor had a poor start. Three months after an expensive, widely publicised launch, the few subscribers who had signed up feared the service was close to collapse. Members of the London Foreign Exchange Brokers Association did not order it until 1977.

Late delivery of equipment was a problem, a sharp rise in costs was another. But once running, Monitor was a money-spinner, making £100 million in profits in its first ten years.

Reuter Monitor Dealing, a two-way system started in 1981, took the process further. Foreign exchange and bond dealers could receive real-time news and prices and make transactions on the same screen without touching a telex or telephone. Today, the system has 10,000 subscribers in 73 countries.

Between \$300 billion and \$450 billion is traded on the foreign exchanges every day, and Reuters claims that about a third of the volume is transacted over the Monitor Dealing system.

JON ASHWORTH

It pays to be well-connected.

REUTERS

Making the best information work harder

Beginning with breakfast

The next
advance lies in
broadcasting.
Melinda
Wittstock reports

Whether by carrier pigeon, telegraph or satellite, Reuters has always made its business in the past 140 years to be at the cutting edge of news dissemination.

Since July when it bought out the minority shareholders in Visnews, the world's largest television picture agency, Reuters has been unable to conceal its ambition to become a major league player in global television news.

Earlier this month, its surprise takeover bid for Independent Television News (ITN) — as one member of a consortium including Michael Green's Carlton Communications, LWT and Central Television — confirmed what many in the news business had suspected all along. Reuters is expanding into broadcasting.

Visnews, which has 35 bureaux worldwide, has always been a wholesaler of television news. Until recently, it was content to provide most broadcasters from the BBC and Sky News to the American networks NBC, CBS and Fox, with pictures and sound from



News check: an editor selects pictures for an early morning television bulletin

around the world. But now it is moving inexorably into television news reporting.

Seventy Visnews staff, from reporters to technicians, are now dedicated to supplying GMTV, which replaces TV-am as ITV's breakfast licensee in January, with national and international news for about £10 million a year. A similar news supply agreement has been mooted with London News Network, a new local news programme to be jointly produced by LWT and Carlton from January 1.

Reuters, which has never before invested in broadcasting, could soon control 20 per cent of ITN, which is guaranteed the right to supply news to ITV until 2003. ITN had

feared that Visnews, together with Carlton and LWT, would challenge its status as sole news provider when reviewed by the Independent Television Commission in 1995. But the bid, if agreed by ITN's ITV company shareholders, will wipe out at one stroke the only threat to ITN's monopoly, while guaranteeing Visnews a place in the broadcasting firmament.

Mark Wood, Reuters' editor-in-chief, is coy about his company's ambitions in broadcasting. "We have ideas but it is too early to spell them out publicly," he says.

He denies any plans to merge Visnews with ITN, but nonetheless points to obvious "long-term synergies" be-

tween the two companies.

"Visnews will continue to supply the BBC, while WTN [Worldwide Television News, Visnews' main rival] will continue to supply ITN, but that does not mean that ITN might not help us expand into financial television, for instance," he says. "ITN has experience and infrastructure we do not have and can help us expand into new areas. But that doesn't change the fact that we will continue to concentrate on being a supplier."

Visnews, which recently ousted WTN as CBS's supplier, could easily end up winning a supply contract with ITN when WTN's contract expires within the next 18 months. "A shareholder can-

not impose its services on a company, but of course we will compete for that contract," Mr Wood says.

He denies that Reuters, or the other three members of the consortium bidding for ITN, have any plans to build ITN into a global broadcaster to rival the news network CNN. "That's been done. We have to deal with the commercial reality of CNN, Sky News and BBC World Service Television. But there may be opportunities to create other narrower, more focused services," he says.

Mr Wood refuses to be drawn on the specifics, but a financial news network is one very real possibility. Pointing to the demise two years ago of European Broadcasting Channel (EBC), the first pan-European business TV station, Mr Wood says: "We're going to be cautious and careful. Financial television is littered with corpses and we do not intend to be one of them."

Reuters has already decided to add moving pictures to its text-based services, which would make it possible for a live television feed from a press conference to appear on the screen alongside written wire copy. Soon Reuters correspondents will find themselves doing pieces to camera as well as filing written reports for the wire.

Visnews's turnover has grown from £10 million a year in 1981 to £60 million in 1991. If Mr Wood has his way, it will perhaps even triple within the next few years.

Independence has taken the place of patriotism



On the firing line: a Reuters photographer moves into position for a news picture

Reports from the front

The news of the relief of Mafeking in 1900 was handed to a train driver and hidden in a sandwich before being telegraphed to an astonished British public. The message, reported by a Reuters correspondent who had been tipped off by the Boers two days before it became official, so electrified people's imagination that Queen Victoria herself asked to see the reporter's telegram.

Nothing in the history of war reporting by Reuters correspondents around the world has matched the excitement of the Mafeking scoop. Yet the ingenuity, stamina and integrity of the Reuters man reporting from the front line have remained undimmed since those heady times when dramatic foreign news stories could take days to hit the front pages of the papers at home.

In those days, Reuters adopted a fiercely patriotic approach to war reporting when Britain was involved and took great care to ensure that bad news was never delivered in stark prose to shatter the morale of the country. The general rule was that bad news should be minimised and good news cheerfully presented. On the first day of the battle of the Somme in July 1916, there were 600,000 British casualties, dead and wounded. Reuters reported that casualties were thought to be light.

However, over the years, as Reuters gained greater independence and employed correspondents from many countries, the rules of war reporting changed. Reuters stopped taking sides and always tried to report a war from both camps. During the Falklands conflict in 1982, the secretary of the D-notice committee appealed to

Reuters to be patriotic and not report that British troops had arrived at Ascension Island, the first leg of the 8,000-mile trip to the South Atlantic. But the editor, then a German, told the retired admiral he was not British.

The first wars covered by Reuters, such as the Austro-Prussian war of 1866 and the Franco-Prussian war of 1870-

The general rule was that bad news should be minimised

1, produced short, pithy telegrams which laid out the basic facts. It was too expensive to send long colourful accounts. According to Donald Read, author of *The Power of News, The History of Reuters*, news sent by telegraph in the earliest days between India and London cost £1 a word.

The first colonial war Reuters reported from the front line was the expedition against Emperor Theodore of Abyssinia in 1867-8. The expeditionary force commanded by General Napier assembled at

Bombay in October 1867 and Reuters was there to report the occasion: "Bombay (via Trieste) Sep 29: The advance guard of the Abyssinian field force, consisting of about 1,400 troops and 1,000 horses and mules sails on the October 5, and will be followed a month later by the rest of the expeditionary force."

A Reuters correspondent, believed to be a serving officer, rode with the column which made the final dash to the Emperor's capital and on April 21, 1868, a Reuters telegram sent from British Army headquarters in Talanta revealed that Magdala, the emperor's headquarters, and its fortifications had been "entirely destroyed".

In 1938, Dick Sheepshanks, reporting the Spanish civil war from Franco's side, became the first Reuters correspondent to be killed, when a shell landed close to a car in which he was sitting with three other journalists. He and two of his companions died. The only one to survive was Kim Philby. *The Times* correspondent and already a Soviet agent.

Five Reuters men died covering the second world war, others were injured, including Jack Smythe who parachuted in for the Arnhem landings in September 1944. He was wounded in the fierce fighting and after being captured was interrogated by the Gestapo for 17 days.

Today, in the former Yugoslavia, Reuters correspondents such as Andrej Gustinic and John Fullerton are carrying on the tradition of reporting the horrors of war from the front line, often at great risk to themselves.

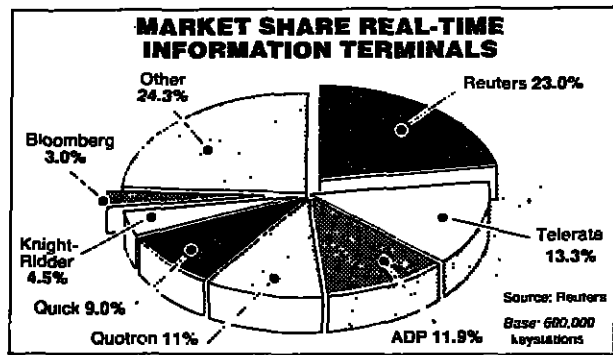
MICHAEL EVANS

Customers are demanding concessions as competition increases in a crowded market

Ready for the rivals

Reuters made its fortune from electronic dealing systems such as Stockmaster and Monitor Dealing. Today the challenge is to keep ahead of the competition in a crowded market in which customers are demanding more concessions.

David Ure, the marketing and technical policy director, admits that competition from Telerate, Quotron, Knight-Ridder, Bloomberg and others is eating into Reuters' market share, but says there is still



plenty of scope for new opportunities.

The new 2000 range of dealing and information services takes Monitor Dealing several steps forward. One of the biggest problems with new products, however, is making them popular enough to take off by themselves.

"People don't drop what they've been doing in the past

and jump into something new," Mr Ure says.

Domestic competition does not help. Reuters has been openly critical of the Stock Exchange for restricting the dissemination of company news to its Topic screen-based system. "We've always said that the Stock Exchange has been using its monopoly unfairly," Mr Ure says. "Now it is

open to competition, but it will take time for word to get around."

Mr Ure dismisses suggestions that Reuters has peaked. He says: "There is still a long way to go."

Reuters has a comparatively small market share in North America, where it faces stiff competition from Telerate, Quotron and Bloomberg. It faces huge resident competition from Quick in Japan, but is making good inroads in Hong Kong. The Pacific Rim has great potential.

Reuters is thinking of supplying software to allow anybody with a desktop computer to plug into Reuters information services. At the moment, users must buy an inclusive Reuters package. A new version of the 2000 range is planned. Large UK companies need information and Reuters is considering branch-



Ure: still plenty of scope

ing out from its traditional City base into the wider corporate world.

"Clearly, our market is not seeing the expansion it was in the 1980s," Mr Ure says, "but quite a lot of the financial markets are doing well in general terms, futures and options in particular."

JON ASHWORTH

The controversial unlocking of great wealth

Time magazine described the Reuters flotation as a saga that had almost everything



Fleet Street: the headquarters

TEN years ago, the City was preparing for one of the most intriguing and controversial stock market flotations in its history. The talk in wine bars, boardrooms and boardrooms was of Reuters, which had grown overnight from a sprawling, cobwebbed news machine into one of the greatest money-spinners City observers could recall.

Profits rose from £4 million to £16 million between 1980 and 1981, and more than doubled to £36 million in 1982. The question was not whether Reuters should go public, but when and how.

four sets of parties could unlock their shareholdings. Chief among them were the Australian, British and New Zealand newspaper publishers that collectively owned Reuters. Three directors, including Glen Renfrew, Reuters' managing director, had been permitted to buy into a new class of non-voting E shares in 1981 as a form of executive benefit. Reuters' trustees were keen to protect and preserve editorial integrity. Employees' interests also had to be considered.

The UK's national newspapers and provincial press answered for 41 per cent of Reuters shares, but did not own them directly. Instead, the shares were held in trust by the Newspaper Publishers Association, which divided the shares using a complicated points system. A daily paper was awarded six points; a London newspaper, three.

The result was long and heated bargaining, in which the press barons tried to pin down their slice of Reuters plc, originally

valued at about £1 billion. Express Newspapers stood to make £120 million from its disputed 12 per cent stake. News International, the owner of *The Sun* and *The Times*, was looking at a £90 million windfall and £40 million was at stake for *The Daily Telegraph*.

Plans for a stock-market flotation were raised as early as 1977, but it took the profits surge of the early 1980s to convince directors of the merits of a listing.

Reuters Holdings was regis-

tered as a public limited company on April 11, 1984. The next month three non-executive directors were appointed: Sir Christopher Hogg, the chairman and chief executive of Courtalds, Pehr Gyllenhammar, the chairman of Volvo, and Walter Wriston, the Citicorp chairman.

The 72-page prospectus was one of the largest ever issued. It was advertised in full over nine pages in four national newspapers. When dealings began on June 4, 1984, shareholders had

every reason to feel satisfied. A simultaneous launch in London and New York at 196p a share raised £221 million for Reuters and its newspaper shareholders. In London, shares rose to 216p before easing to close at 212p.

The flotation was described by *Time* as a saga that had almost everything: "high-risk corporate strategies and fierce boardroom battles, missing heirs and angry workers, high technology and hard news". The newspaper groups made £152 million and the news agency, £53 million.

JON ASHWORTH

Electronic trading comes on stream

a handful of Japanese brokers, plus KDD, the Japanese telecommunications giant, and Telerate, the Reuters arch rival. The second is the Electronic Broking Service (EBS), which is backed by another dealing room systems supplier, Quotron, plus ten banks in the United States, United Kingdom and Switzerland (the UK participants are Barclays, the Midland and the National Westminster banks).

At least Reuters' system is up and running. EBS and Minex might themselves be subject to delays. Nevertheless, the fact that Dealing 2000-2 was almost two years late has given rivals time to catch up. "It always pays to be first, but

when we started this project we expected Reuters to be there long before this," says Peter Bariko, chairman of EBS.

The second cause for celebration at Reuters this year was the arrival of Globex. In 1987 Reuters and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) signed a contract to build a system which would provide electronic trading for futures and options outside the regular trading hours. They were later joined by the other major exchange in the city, the Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT). As with Dealing 2000-2, Globex links buyers and sellers electronically, matching bids and orders automatically.



Working with Globex, a system for futures and options

today's Instinet chairman, Michael Sanderson, and was handling only about 0.25 per cent of the total number of equity deals done in the US. Reuters bought the company in 1987 and turned it into a wholly owned subsidiary.

"It is an idea whose time has arrived," Mr Sanderson says. Volumes are now growing at about 50 per cent a year, Mr Sanderson claims, and today it handles about 5 per cent of all US equities.

MARTIN WHYBROW



Michael Sanderson: timing

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Serfontein seeks qualified success against law-breakers



Holding office: Serfontein at his Newcastle dental practice

By PETER BILLS

DANIE Serfontein, the president of the Rugby Football Union (RFU), does not relish the task of tracking down the players and officials who break the rules of amateurism. "But I will do it to clean out these people from the game," he says. "Those doing this are not nice people at all."

Steve Brain, the former England hooker, explained in *The Times* last week how players were targeted by rival clubs and made offers of jobs and/or cash (of £5,000 or more) to join them. Brain said that evidence would never be found to indict the law-breakers.

That assertion is rejected by Serfontein. "It is my belief that someone will eventually talk," he says. "We think we have two

effective weapons in halting this. The new changes in the eligibility laws will be closely monitored at the end of this season. A total of 324 players changed clubs last season in the top three divisions and we are watching that figure closely."

"It is a lot of movement. We accept you will not stamp out entirely this practice but I believe we can reduce it by 70 or 80 per cent. The current 120-day period of qualification makes it more difficult for a player moving on. And we will soon know if this trend is continuing through the

numbers changing clubs. This is where we can catch them."

Without documentary proof of qualification if it continues, I favour pushing the qualification period to where it becomes almost impossible to move clubs. We might push some players out of the game by doing so but that is preferable to money being paid. A 12 or 18-month qualification period if you move clubs would get rid of this to a large extent."

Serfontein, born in the Orange Free State 59 years ago, arrived in Britain in 1952 to study dentistry

at Newcastle University. After six years, he returned to South Africa, but came back to Britain in 1964, for post-graduate work; instead, he took a job in a dental practice in Newcastle and has remained there ever since. As a player, he captained English Universities and Northumberland and represented the North of England.

A section of rugby seeks to blame Twickenham for the trade in players; they say it was the RFU that introduced the commercialism to the game. Serfontein raises a strong objection to that.

It was the clubs that pushed for

leagues, he says, and now the players are simply pawns in their game. "I totally blame the administrators at certain clubs. They do this because they want to be big boys. It is for their egos. You see them, they stomp around. They want to be important people."

"I don't blame the players; these guys have wives and families. I believe they are ashamed because they know they are breaking the rules. They look in your eye and say what an awful thing it would be to do, yet they are doing it."

The players Serfontein does criticise are those who kept silent until retirement. "Players like Burton and Sole, who have not got the guts to speak during their lifetime on the field but then start quoting instances in their books and making money afterwards by talking about it."

European Tour season ends at Valderrama

Montgomerie still campaigning for that elusive victory

FROM MITCHELL PLATTS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN SOTOGRANDE

COLIN Montgomerie has earned £316,382 in Europe alone this year, but he enters the Volvo Masters, which begins at Valderrama here today, feeling more like a pauper because of his failure to record a victory in 1992, despite leading in several tournaments and finishing third in the US Open at Pebble Beach.

His ability to handle pressure when ahead is under review following setbacks such as that in the European Masters, when he was six shots clear with 20 holes to play.

Montgomerie has also finished a finger-touch away in the Cannes Open, Italian Open, Bell's Scottish Open and Madrid Open and is, perhaps, entitled to feel that good fortune, an essential ingredient for success, has been lacking. But he draws comfort from the exploits of Nick Faldo even if he cannot hide his disappointment.

"Nick has shown that the more you are in the firing line then the more you are going to be seen to fail," Montgomerie said. "The way Nick has played this season he should have won eight, nine, ten, maybe even 12 times, but he hasn't because it's impossible to do so. His losses have been well monitored, as mine have, but the fact is when you are thirtieth and finish 5-5-6 then nobody takes any notice."

"I feel I've had an excellent year, I've played well but I haven't had the breaks. I hope I've learned from my experi-

ences, my losing experiences, but I admit I do need a win, badly."

Montgomerie has won only twice as a professional, and he is the only player in the top 12 of the Volvo Order of Merit not to have triumphed this season. In contrast, Faldo has won five times this season, and 31 times in all. He is already assured of being top of the money list and he will take his official earnings to a record £811,094 if he brings the curtain down on the 1992 PGA European Tour by winning again. He is 201 under par for the year, and by teeing off today he becomes only the second player to win more than £3 million in Europe.

Faldo, of course, long ago dismissed money as a goal. He says, for instance, that the Olympics appeals to him because there is a gold medal to be won. "But August in August," now that would be steamy," Faldo said. "They would have to dig the course up after the Masters and plant summer grass. But I, like

anyone, would love to win gold."

Valderrama is regarded as Europe's Augusta and it is where many, Faldo included, believe the Ryder Cup should be played in 1997. "It's our best Tour stop," he said. The course, superbly manicured as usual, is a severe examination. "There are only ten to 15 here who can win. Most weeks the number would be over 30," José María Olazábal said.

Montgomerie knows that a win could propel him past Bernhard Langer, Anders Forsbrand, Barry Lane and Olazábal to finish runner-up to Faldo in the order of merit. He has been wounded by a comment from David Feherty, who overtook him to win the Madrid Open last Sunday. Feherty claimed: "Every time you see him, he's got a face like a warthog that has just been stung by a wasp." Montgomerie said: "Yes, it hurts. You try to ignore it, but it does affect you in a way." He insists his concentration will be unaffected and likes a course he describes as "challenging and fair."

Ian Woosnam's view is that the greens, undulating and exceptionally fast, would provide the Americans with an advantage in the Ryder Cup. The Welshman has struggled with his putter in recent months. "I must have led at some stage in 75 per cent of the events I've played and I've won only once," he said. "I'm disappointed, but the season isn't over."

Unfulfilled: Montgomerie has won money aplenty but has no title to call his own

RUGBY UNION: WELSH FIVE-YEAR UNBEATEN RUN ENDS IN DUBLIN

Australians turn to versatile Crowley

SELECTION of the Australian team to play Ireland at Lansdowne Road on Saturday proved easy enough as the tour party drove from Galway to Dublin yesterday; the only issue was the replacement at loose-head prop for the injured Tony Daly, and with Dan Crowley having taken everything in his stride thus far, that was not much of an issue (David Hands writes).

Crowley, 27, a detective from Brisbane, came to fame against the 1989 British Isles but did not win his fourth cap until last year when he played against Western Samoa during the World Cup. However, the stocky prop's previous international appearances have been at tight-head; now, since both selected loose-heads, Daly and Cameron Lillie, have gone home injured, he moves across.

"Once we knew we had a problem we played Crowley on the loose-head in a full game against Connacht and twice when he came on as a replacement," John Breen, the team manager, said. In fact, Matt Ryan, who joined the

party as Daly's replacement last week, is a specialist loose-head but his game in Galway on Wednesday was his first since playing against Eastern Province in South Africa in August. Neither Crowley nor Lillie was available for that tour.

The other change since Australia's 26-3 defeat of South Africa, of course, is the departure of Nick Farr-Jones as scrum half and captain (though he is expected in Dublin as a television commentator). Michael Lynagh plays his sixteenth international as captain and Peter Slattery, so long the groom's man but seldom the groom, comes in for his seventh cap in what he hopes will be a long, if somewhat delayed, international career.

Anthony Herbert, the centre who suffered breaks to minor bones in his back against Connacht will return to Australia on Sunday, the third player to do so in an unprecedented run of misfortune for the touring side. He will take six weeks to recover from the injury.

Australia: M C Roebuck (NSW), D I Campbell (NSW), J S Little (Queensland), T J Horan (Queensland), P V Carozza (Queensland), M P Lynch (Queensland), P J Statton (Queensland), D J Crowley (Queensland), P N Kearns (NSW), E J A McFarlane (NSW), V O'Brien (NSW), R J McCall (Queensland), J A Eales (Queensland), D Wilson (Queensland), B T Gane (NSW). Replacements: A Burt (NSW), T P Katcher (NSW), D Smith (Queensland), D V Nucleon (Queensland), M Ryan (Queensland), T Coler (Queensland).

Richard Loe, the All Black who was suspended for nine months for eye-gouging Greg Cooper, the Otago full back, earlier this month, has had his appeal against the ban delayed to give him time to prepare a case.

McGowan's display raises Irish hopes

Ireland Under-21 22
Wales Under-21 11FROM DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT
IN DUBLIN

IRELAND may have been casting around for a stand-off half at senior level for the last two years but the manner in which Alan McGowan presided over the defeat of Wales in the under-21 international at Donnybrook yesterday suggested they have been quietly nurturing one for the future.

McGowan, a student at University College Dublin, is a composed youngster, who plays alongside Brendan Mullin, the former British Isles centre, at Blackrock College. He has also played for Leinster — one of five players in the Irish side with senior

provincial experience — against the Australians, no less, and yesterday he helped to pull Ireland back from an 11-0 deficit.

His was one of three Irish tries on a cold, blustery afternoon that saw Wales subside to their first defeat at this level for five years and 13 matches. Ireland scored two goals, a try and a penalty goal to a try and two penalties.

Ireland's selectors would also have been pleased with the form of Longwell in the pack: the 6ft 6in second row scored the final try and had a hand in the second, supporting a break by Wilson that took everyone, the No. 8 included, by surprise. Wilson spun off a maul and found himself in splendid isolation, making 30 metres before Longwell added his consider-

able support and McGowan scored from the final ruck.

Wales, who lost Harries, their scrum half, after eight minutes, dominated the early lineouts and took decisive advantage when Ireland lost possession in midfield. Evans established the ruck and Harries sent Reynolds sprinting down a big blind side for the try. With Williams adding two penalties the way seemed open for the Welsh to build on last season's inaugural victory over Ireland in Newport.

But Ireland closed down their space and, under pressure, Welsh basic skills wilted. They conceded a pushover try to Wilson and after three early misses, McGowan's penalty immediately after the interval decreased the Welsh advantage to one point.

Both sides failed to control

possession in a somewhat frenetic passage of play until McGowan's try gave his side the lead and Longwell crowned the final period of intense pressure on the Welsh with a try.

SCORING: Ireland Under-21: Tries: Wilson, McGowan, Longwell. Conversions: McGowan (2), Penalties: McGowan, Wales Under-21: Try: Reynolds. Penalties: Williams (2).

IRELAND UNDER-21: 1 Gray (Queens University), D Swann (Glanworth), R Hunter (Newport), S Tynan (Terenure College), G McCusker (Newport), A McGowan (Blackrock College), N Aspin (Blackrock College), M Carroll (Old Belvedere), S Byrne (Blackrock College), P Wallen (UCC), captain, L Toland (Old Crescent), G Longwell (Queens University), S Cusack (Belvedere), P Farrell (Drogheda), C O'Connell (Drogheda), Wilson (Newport).

WELSH UNDER-21: D Weatherly (Swansea), J Reynolds (Newport), M Wills (Llanelli), J Redrup (Newport), C Young (Llanelli), J Williams (Abertillery), H Harries (Cardiff), M P Morris, Aberystwyth, R Jones (Llanelli), J Evans (Brynmorchard), S Price (Llanelli), J Jones (Llanelli), L Harvey (Newport), G Taylor (Newport), R Rhodri Jones (Llanelli), I Callaghan (Cardiff), M R Appleby (Swansea), P Jones (Newport), R G Henderson (Swansea).

Abrahams caught in South Africa crossfire

FROM CHRIS THAU
IN TOURS

THE assistant manager of the South African rugby team in France, Jaak Abrahams, a Coloured civil servant from Cape Province, and the unofficial press spokesman, is trapped in a predicament. He is the only member of the National Olympic Sports Committee's (NOSC) criticism of his organisation has also deeply affected him.

"I must make it very, very clear that I support both the ANC [African National Congress] and the NOSC. I am one of the oppressed people of South Africa and I am a member of NOSC. I understand clearly what the message of NOSC is. What they are

trying to say is that we must see progress on the development front before we embark on other international tours. In other words, rugby in South African townships must develop."

Abrahams, who is a selector, said: "To a certain extent this is my personal predicament. I have no doubts about the sincerity of SARFU [South Africa Rugby Football Union] as the united body of South African rugby."

"We put aside over six million rand [about £1.3 million] for development. I believe we are genuine in our attempt to rectify the imbalance so that every player, irrespective of colour, race or creed, will get an opportunity to play for South Africa."

"The development within SARFU is overseen by two black officials, former ANC executives Sas Bailey and Ngconde Balfour. It will take some time before our policy will bring any results."

"It is true we couldn't find non-white players able to play at this level. That doesn't necessarily mean that they don't exist. It is just that we don't have a system in place to identify them."

"Personally, I would have liked to have black players accompanying the team. But there was a feeling in South Africa that this would be perceived as a window-dressing exercise and perhaps they were right."

"I have to say that this is not the team of white South

Africa, although all players are white. It is the first time a team has ever represented the whole of South African rugby."

Paris: Serge Blanco, France's most-capped player, will lead the French Barbarians against the South Africans, in Lille on Saturday, in the final match of his career and the last match of their tour. Among the French internationalists are the lock, Abdeleatif Benazzi, and the hooker, Philippe Saint-Andre. Robert Jones, the Welsh scrum-half, is the only foreigner included. (AFP)

FRENCH BARBARIANS: S Blanco (captain), P Laporte, P Sala, D Chaves, P Sant-Andre, D Camarero, R Jones, J Lacoste, M Del Maso, P Ondara, A Beres, S Cardan, L Looze, E Chama, L Rodriguez, R Rhodri Jones (Llanelli), I Callaghan (Cardiff), M R Appleby (Swansea), P Jones (Newport), R G Henderson (Swansea).

SPORTS POLITICS

Warning that tax demands could harm Olympic bid

By DAVID MILLER

ROBERT Watson, the outgoing honorary treasurer of the British Olympic Association (BOA), yesterday accused the government of double standards. While it has promised the Manchester Olympic bidding committee more than £50 million, the BOA face a tax demand of £839,000 on its fund-raising for Olympic teams.

"There should be government legislation to protect the symbol of the Olympic rings," Watson said. "Otherwise the tax system will affect not only our efforts but those of Manchester."

During Watson's 12 years in office, the BOA's reserve assets have risen from zero to £3.5 million and his removal yesterday was not without some opposition.

After a predicted clean sweep, the BOA is now led by a group of honorary officials who have the youth, knowledge and financial experience, together with a dedicated professional staff led by Dick Palmer, the general secretary, to make the BOA the most prominent voice in British sport: the way it should be.

Besides the unopposed Craig Reddie succeeding the retiring chairman, Sir Arthur Gold, Dr Neil Townsend, a general practitioner from Broadway, and a former Olympic huge competitor, took two thirds of the votes to become vice-chairman at the age of 37. Paul Pruszyński, a management consultant from Croydon, representing hobsleigh, defeated Watson by a similar margin.

Together with those such as Kevin Hickey, Dr Roy Axon and Scott Naden, the respective technical directors, chief medical officer and competitors employment officer, they will shape more than any administrative body the overall image of British sport in the coming years.

Nothing could have more demonstrated the need for change than the closing moments of yesterday's annual general meeting. Gold, an old-time amateur whose reputation in the campaign against drugs is renowned, chose this moment to cast doubt yet

again on the ethos of the modern Olympics.

He questioned whether the International Olympic Committee (IOC), under the leadership of Juan Antonio Samaranch, was going down the wrong path. By tailoring the Games for television he was reaching the wrong audience, creating entertainment rather than sport. Sir Arthur cited a pensioner who was reluctant financially to support a British team when the games were seen to be "for wealthy, greedy competitors, prepared to cheat with drugs."

Gold contended: "It is our (BOA) duty to see that the Olympic ethos survives." His sentiments are honourable, and genuinely strike at the emotions of traditional British attitudes to sport. Yet the way they were expressed could only serve to distance British administration still further from the mainstream of the Olympic movement, and were at marked variance with the reports just heard from his own staff.

"A superb Games that demonstrated the strength of the Olympic movement, a wonderful platform on which to move forward," was how they were described by Palmer.

Dr Axon, who led a medical team of more than 40 said they had been "one of the best there has ever been in facilities and organisation."

The Olympics, like any event, must evolve. The only way that Britain can influence change for the better — as evidenced from the unsuccessful peripheral opposition to the IOC by the Princess Royal the BOA's president — is from within the inner circle, not from the fringe. Britain has too long been on the fringe.

"It seems there is a difference of opinion," Reddie tactfully stated. "between generating money to produce and support athletes, and questioning where too much money is leading the Olympics. I consider we... should more often be listening to the rest of the world. Nobody could have come away from Barcelona without a feeling of optimism."

HOCKEY

UCL lacking ideas and have to settle for draw

Essex University 2
UCL 2

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

ESSEX University hit back twice from penalty strokes to share the spoils with University College London in the UAU championship match at Colchester yesterday.

Although the Essex attacks were more sustained, University College, despite their less-frequent excursions, had more style and panache. Three of their players, Monro, Goffinet and Johnson, were from the senior London University team.

David Wright gave UCL the lead in the tenth minute with a sharp, angled shot from a pass by Johnson. Essex retaliated by forcing two short corners that proved abortive and Sims fired a shot wide of the far post.

In the fifteenth minute UCL lost Goffinet, who was suspended for dissent and kept off the field for the remainder of the first half.

Essex could have been in further trouble earlier in the second half but for two splen-

did saves by their goalkeeper, Hodgkinson, from Sutton and Johnson.

After pushing up their work rate Essex were eventually awarded a penalty stroke after Sims was obstructed by the goalkeeper. Sims himself converted to level the score in the fifth minute.

Two minutes later UCL were ahead again, with Sutton scoring from a scramble, but their joy was short-lived. Essex were rewarded with a penalty stroke for a stick tackle inside the circle and Sims again levelled the score.

UCL attacked strongly in the closing minutes and Goffinet was obstructed in front of goal. Essex were let off lightly by conceding only a short corner.

The ball was lost and considerable time was spent in finding a replacement. UCL were unable to make any use of the short corner for the want of ideas.

ESSEX: S Hodgkinson, A Woodley, M Henderson, P Marley, I Garry, M Sims, P Farmer-Hoddy, P Gaudson, D Sims, C Amor, M Lee.
UCL: S Nollan, G Jackson, J Johnson, A Aspin, J Simpson, M Monro, G Goffinet, T Sutton, D Wright, M Johnson, M Palmer, R Cox (Essex) and P Ryan (Essex).

BBC1

- 6.00** Cee-fax (678267) **6.30** Breakfast News (27523638)
9.05 Kilroy, Robert Kilroy-Giles chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject (6782638) **9.45** Rose King, Game show (s) (6782638)
10.00 News, regional news and weather (5349487) **10.05** Playdays, For the very young (s) (7088707)
10.30 Good Morning... with Anne and Nick, Magazine series presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen (7742138)
12.15 Robb's Mill, Alan Robb reports from the New York premiere of the film *Glimpse of Glenn* and talks to the stars Al Pacino and Jack Lemmon; and Lord Ashley discusses Deal Awareness Week (s) (6782638) **12.55** Regional News and weather (5320268)
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton, (Cee-fax) (12894)
4.30 Neighbours, (Cee-fax) (s) (6040245) **1.50** Going For Gold, General knowledge quiz (s) (6040271)
2.15 Film: *The Prisoner of Second Avenue* (1975) starring Jack Lemmon and Anne Bancroft. Unusually bleak comedy from Neil Simon about a suddenly redundant executive who cannot cope with unemployment and takes it out on his new breadwinning wife. Look out for a cameo role by Sylvester Stallone as an alleged pick-pocket. Directed by Melvin Frank (401815)
3.50 Pudding Tales, The adventures of four dogs (9779466) **3.55** Noddy (s) (6284146) **4.10** Star Pete (s) (7110436) **4.20** Get Your Own Jack, Game show (s) (2242271) **4.35** Uncle Jack and the Dark Side of the Moon, Episode three of the six-part drama series. (Cee-fax) (s) (7928981)
5.00 Newsround (9653233) **5.05** Blue Peter, (Cee-fax) (4068340)
5.35 Neighbours (s), (Cee-fax) (704417) **5.40** Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
6.00 One O'Clock News with John Humphrys and Moira Stuart, (Cee-fax) (538)
6.30 Regional News Magazines (558), Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 Top of the Pops introduced by Mark Franklin (s) (5177)
7.30 Eastenders, (Cee-fax) (542)
8.00 As Time Goes By, Bob Laby's romantic comedy starring Judi Dench and Geoffrey Palmer (s), (Cee-fax) (s) (6417)
8.30 Waiting For God, Graham Crowden and Stephanie Cole star as ageing activists causing mayhem in a retirement home. (Cee-fax) (s) (6252)
9.00 One O'Clock News with Michael Burk, (Cee-fax) Regional news and weather (5146)
9.30 Smith and Jones, Mel Smith and Griff Rhys Jones with another collection of comic sketches. (Cee-fax) (s) (49875)
10.00 One Foot in the Grave, Victor celebrates his 61st birthday by giving away his best pair of shoes and carrying a virtual stranger round a garden centre. Still, he has got a holiday in Athens to look forward to — hasn't he? Starring Richard Wilson and Annette Crosbie (s), (Cee-fax) (18417), Northern Ireland: Spotlight; Wales: A Sense of Europe
11.30 Neil Sedaka in Concert, The singer recorded in Birmingham's Symphony Hall (s) (103044), Wales: One Foot in the Grave 12.00 Neil Sedaka 12.45 News and weather 12.20-12.45 Weather (157721)

Panelist: Ed Koch, former mayor of New York (10.30pm)

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BBC2

- 8.00** Breakfast News (4782097) **8.15** Westminster (4056726)
9.00 Daytime On Two, Educational programmes
9.20 News, regional news and weather (5143645) followed by You and Me (s) (3253845) **2.15** Addict, Show series first of a new series of the welfare rights magazine presented by Helen Madden and Andrew Miller (7088232), Northern Ireland: Diversions 2.25-3.15 Northern Ireland Question Time
3.00 News (Cee-fax) and weather (6884349) **3.05** Westminster Live, Iain Maclellan and John Cole introduce live coverage from the Commons including prime minister's questions (7177691) **3.50** News (Cee-fax), regional news and weather (2272638)
4.00 Catchword, Word game hosted by Paul Cole (s) (271)
4.30 World Scramble Championships, Highlights from last year's event (s) (455)
5.00 From the Edge, News of the arts, political and news scenes from disabled reporters. (Cee-fax) (8875)
5.30 Food and Drink, A repeat of Tuesday's programme that includes a recipe for a spicy Thai curry (s) (707)
6.00 Film: *3.10 to Yuma* (1957, b/w).
6.10 CHOICE: One of the best comedies of the 1950s, *3.10 to Yuma* is a taut and economical story which, like *High Noon*, builds its suspense around a railway timetable. Van Heflin plays Dan Evans, an Arizona rancher hit by the drought, who volunteers to escort outlaw Ben Wade (Glenn Ford) to the state prison at Yuma. Unusually for a western there is little physical action. The drama is chiefly psychological, charting the battle of wills between Evans and his unpredictable charge as the minutes tick by and Wade's gang close in to rescue him. The film depends more than most westerns on its dialogue and Halsted Welles's screenplay is a model of saving much with the minimum number of words. The director was Delmer Daves, an undervalued figure whose other westerns include *Broken Arrow* and *The Hanging Tree* (s) (1287), Wales: Inside English 6.15 Lingol 6.30 Winning 7.00 Spain on a Plate
7.30 First Sight: Who Cares? Terry Digney investigates the changes in community care that will take place in Britain next April (184), Northern Ireland: Road 92, Wales: Dad's Army, East Meets West: Midlands: Midlands Report: North, North-east and North-west: Close Up North: South: Southern Eye: South-west: Close Up: West: Close Up West
8.00 A Cook's Tour of France, Mireille Johnson returns to her native Provence to re-acquaint herself with the food of the region. (Cee-fax) (s) (1077)
8.30 Top Gear, Jeremy Clarkson wallows in the luxury of driving old Maseratis as well as the latest model, the 222; and Tony Mason reports on the Midland Rally (s) (6894)
9.00 Bottom, Basic humour from Adrian Edmondson and Rik Mayall as bachelor flatmates (Cee-fax) (s) (3788)



Cafe society: Theresa Heagren waits on truckers (8.30pm)

- 9.30** Present Imperfect: Chips in the Night.
 CHOICE: Tonight's vignette of recession-hit Britain comes from the Red Lodge transport cafe near Newmarket where managers Theresa Heagren and her team dispense the traditional fare of greasy fry-ups and mugs of strong tea to hungry truckers. Despite the economic climate, the clientele seems cheerful and helpful. Theresa is more worried about the new by-pass which threatens to take away her traditional customers. But Peter Gordon's film is more than a story of a British institution under threat. It is revealing about the culture both of the long-distance lorry driver and the catering business and highlights the irony that although it mainly serves men, the Red Lodge is mainly run by women. Theresa says she and most of her staff have had bad experiences with men and working in the cafe is a chance to be in control (s) (27542)
10.30 Newsnight with Sue Cameron (978928)
11.15 The Late Show, Arts and media magazine (s) (760313)
11.55 Later with Jools Holland, Providing the music tonight are Shakespeare's Sister, Indigo Girls and Mary Chapin Carpenter (s) (434146) **12.30am** World Service (6828837), Ends at 12.35
3.00 BBC Select: RCN Nursing Update (88160), Ends at 6.00

ITV LONDON

- 6.00** TV-am (6478146)
9.25 Keynotes, Music quiz (1480165) **9.55** Thames News (7097455)
10.00 The Time... The Place... Topical discussion (8304455)
10.35 This Morning, Magazine series (2616345)
11.00 The Riddler, Puppet series for children (s) (7541788)
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News with Sonia Russell and Nicholas Owen, (Oracle) Weather (6232455) **1.05** Thames News (81750748)
1.15 Home and Away, Australian family drama (Oracle) (670788) **1.45** A Country Practice, Medical drama series (6752871)
2.15 TV Weekly, Anne Diamond goes behind the scenes of popular ITV and Channel 4 programmes (594368) **2.45** Take the High Road, Highland-based drama series (6056320)
3.10 ITN News headlines (8854455) **3.15** Thames News headlines (8854455) **3.20** ITN News headlines (8854455)
3.50 The Riddler, Puppet series for children (s) (7541788) and the Zoo Zone, Animation (s) (6546346) **4.20** Rolf's Cartoon Club (1634320) **4.45** Bad Influences, The first of a new series about the latest in computer games and technology (7912233)
5.10 Blockbusters, General knowledge quiz (4070788)
5.40 Early Evening News with John Seaver, (Oracle) Weather (236374)
5.55 Thames Help (s) (849707)
6.00 Home and Away (s), (Oracle) (146) **6.30** Thames News (726)
7.00 Emmerdale, Soap set in the Yorkshire Dales (Oracle) (5165)
7.30 Jimmy's, More real-life dramas concerning the patients and staff of St James's University Hospital, Leeds (s) (6101)
8.00 The Bill: Discipline, DCI Meadows (Simon Ross) starts a rumour that he has enough evidence to put away a local drug baron for a very long time. (Oracle) (4813)
8.30 This Week: Ivan the Less Terrible? A report on the case of John Demjanjuk, held for a series of years in an Israeli prison. He was convicted of being the notorious "Ivan the Terrible" who operated the gas chambers in Treblinka during the second world war but has always protested his innocence (3320)
9.00 Rumpole of the Bailey.
 CHOICE: Leo McKern's Falstaffian barrister returns for a new series, 16 years after the character was first seen in a single play for the BBC. Such a long run often results in a good idea outstaying its welcome but the old rascal looks to have a bit more life in him yet. Rumpole has settled into familiar grooves and the pleasure lies not in being surprised but in renewing the acquaintance of agreeable friends. We can relish again the uneasy truce between Rumpole and She Who Must Be Obeyed, the good-natured but often telling dig at the legal system, the clever plotting and the roguish humour. Tonight's tale, of an eight-year-old child accused of devil worship, may not be one of John Mortimer's best but it is told with the customary skill and smoothly integrated with a sub-plot about a conspiracy to evict Rumpole from his chambers. (Oracle) (3417)
10.00 News at Ten with Trevor McDonald and Carol Barnes, (Oracle) Weather (36813) **10.30** Thames News (477368)
10.40 01, This week's featured film is *Unlawful Entry* (s) (147788)
11.15 Prisoner: Cell Block H, Drama series set in an Australian women's detention centre (418113)
12.10am Science Fiction: No Final Truth, The story of a group of prisoners kept in Buchenwald by the Nazis to produce a typhus vaccine for their troops (1251189)
12.40 Alfred Hitchcock Presents: Hippocratic Oath, An arrogant medical student tries to buy his qualification (2421189)
1.05 Film: *The Big Gamble* (1961) starring Stephen Boyd and Juliet Greco. Amiable adventure yarn about an Irishman and his wife who buy a large truck and make for Africa's Ivory Coast where they hope to make a fortune in the haulage business. Directed by Richard Fleischer (435740)
3.00 Kojak, The New York policeman investigates the death of an undercover colleague (s) (15214)
4.00 Motor Sport Special, Action from Pembrey and Mallory Park (46363) **4.30** America's Top Ten (s) (s) (54721)
5.00 Wednesday (s) (24092)
5.30 ITN Morning News with Phil Roman (62189), Ends at 6.00

Wrongly accused of war crimes? John Demjanjuk (8.30pm)

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00** Cartoons (53726) **7.00** The Big Breakfast (56207)
9.00 You Bet Your Life, American game show (13962)
9.30 Schools (421146)
10.00 The Parliament Programme presented by Anne Perkins (33736)
12.30 Sesame Street, Pre-school series (72388)
1.30 Take 5, Young people's entertainment (44320)
2.00 Film: *Terror in a Texas Town* (1956, b/w) starring Sterling Hayden and Sebastian Cabot. Off-beat western drama about a Scandinavian whaler, an ace with the harpoon, who goes to his father's farm in Texas and finds the town terrorised by an unscrupulous baron who is forcing everyone off their oil-rich land. Directed by Joseph H. Lewis (94487)
3.30 Aldabra Revisited, A Survival documentary about the fight by conservationists to prevent an Anglo-American airbase being built on an island teeming with rare wildlife in the Indian Ocean (s) (504)
4.00 Family Pride, Drama series about a Midlands-based Asian family (s) (639)
4.30 Fifteen To One, General knowledge quiz game (s) (523)
5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show, Paula Davis, daughter of Ronald and Nancy Reagan, talks about the non-physical abuse she suffered from her parents (s) (655233)
5.55 The Magic Roundabout, Classic children's series narrated by Nigel Planer (s) (847349)
6.00 My Two Dads, American comedy series (s), (Teletext) (s) (788)
6.30 Gamesmaster, Computer game show (538)
7.00 Channel 4 News with Dermot Murnaghan and Zanele Badawi, (Teletext) Weather (991610)
7.50 Comment, Elizabeth Smart, whose business follows this week, talks about the struggle being faced by small businesses (100800)
8.00 The Black Bag, The Brighton Beat. The second of two programmes looking at the work of the Brighton police reveals the results of their attempts to crack down on crime in one of the country's most violent neighbourhoods (s) (2455)
8.30 Rising Damp, Rigby, despite having a cynical view on the subject of matrimony, lets the ladies in to a young couple and tries to make amends in the grand manner. Starring Leonard Rossiter (s), (Teletext) (1952)
9.00 Critical Eye: Wake Up England.
 CHOICE: Following English football supporters around Sweden during European championship, this film sets out to challenge the image of mindless thugs bent on stirring up trouble. It refutes the police view that the street battles of Malmö and Stockholm were the result of an organised conspiracy. It suggests that the supporters have plenty of provocation, media hype, overreaction by the police, poor accommodation and England's dismal showing on the field. But the main thesis is that hooliganism stems from elements in the English psyche, an insularity and xenophobia which manifest themselves in an aggressive desire to be noticed. There is an instructive comparison between the brawling Englishmen and the sporting Scots, who after their team was defeated by Germany joined the celebrations of the rival fans. (Teletext) (7287)



Seducer: Peter Weller coaxes Molly Ringwald (10.00pm)

- 10.00** Film: *Women and Men — Stories of Seduction* (1990) A pornographic comedy drama based on three short stories about seduction written by Mark McCarty, Donny Paul and Emma Hemmings — *The Man in the Brooks Brothers* — *Suit*, directed by Fredrick Raphael, *Dusk before Fireworks*, directed by Karl Russell and starring Peter Weller and Molly Ringwald, and *Hills Like White Elephants*, directed by Tony Richardson (s) (51788)
11.35 Animations, *Plus One Minus One* and *Salome*
11.45 Set of Six, Comedy series starring Rowland Hynes (s) (702033)
12.15am Four-Matrons: Sound, Two animated shorts — *Rhythms of Jazz* and *Korean Trilogy* (s) (Lung) (468534)
12.40 Dispatches (s) (8208943)
1.25 Film: *Lady By Choice* (1934, b/w) starring Carole Lombard and May Robson. Comedy about an exotic dancer who is arrested for indecency and persuaded by her agent to adopt a mother in order to create a good impression. Directed by David Burton (105547), Ends at 2.45

VARIATIONS

- ANGLIA**
 As London except: 3.30-3.50 The Young Doctors (487891) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (407078) 6.25-7.00 The Young Doctors (487891) 7.10-7.40 The Young Doctors (487891) 7.45-8.15 The Young Doctors (487891) 8.20-8.50 The Young Doctors (487891) 9.00-9.30 The Young Doctors (487891) 9.35-10.00 The Young Doctors (487891) 10.05-10.30 The Young Doctors (487891) 10.35-11.00 The Young Doctors (487891) 11.05-11.30 The Young Doctors (487891) 11.35-12.00 The Young Doctors (487891) 12.05-12.30 The Young Doctors (487891) 12.35-1.00 The Young Doctors (487891) 1.05-1.30 The Young Doctors (487891) 1.35-2.00 The Young Doctors (487891) 2.05-2.30 The Young Doctors (487891) 2.35-3.00 The Young Doctors (487891) 3.05-3.30 The Young Doctors (487891) 3.35-4.00 The Young Doctors (487891) 4.05-4.30 The Young Doctors (487891) 4.35-5.00 The Young Doctors (487891) 5.05-5.30 The Young Doctors (487891) 5.35-6.00 The Young Doctors (487891) 6.05-6.30 The Young Doctors (487891) 6.35-7.00 The Young Doctors (487891) 7.05-7.30 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With only two more pike-days left at Llangedfedd, all eyes will now be on Bough Beech reservoir, in Kent, another potential record-breaker, which will be pike-fished until December 3. Both lakes were identified in this column on October 15 as those most likely to produce record pike this season.